# MORPEN



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Part One: Britain



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TUESDAY 23 JANUARY 1996

### History in the dressmaking

Galliano does Givenchy

# could keep Tories out for years

Lib-Lab talks under way on PR deal

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES Political Correspondent

Tony Blair was last night offered the enticing prospect of Liberal support for at least two parliaments, to keep out the Conservatives and ensure that Britain undertakes vital economic and democratic changes.

As Paddy Ashdown. the Liberal Democrat leader, gave the clearest signal yet of his willingness to construct a postelection relationship with Labour, Westminster sources said that informal talks had already begun between senior figures in both parties over a referendum on introducing a proportional voting system for the Commons.

Mr Ashdown's address last night came amid increasing signs of Tory alarm that a Labour/Liberal Democrat understanding might have the potential to keep them out of



Paddy Ashdown: 'Partnership politics' will stop the Tories

office for a couple of decades. The Liberal-Labour talks are taking place between Robin Cook, the shadow Foreign Secretary, and Robert Maclennan, the Liberal Democrats' spokesman on constitutional

Mr Cook, a long-time advocate of proportional representation, has overall responsibility for developing Labour policy and chairs the committee that will draw up its election mani-

Mr Blair has made a commitment to such a referendum but has said nothing further on key details. The Liberal Democrats are pressing for a crossparty agreement on the precise system that should be put to a

Lottery cash switch

section

plebiscite, followed by a par-liamentary Bill which would then be put to the British people in a post-legislative refer-

The Liberal Democrat leader said last night that repairing the damage of Conservative rule and restoring trust in government would involve a significant constitutional programme. But there would also have to be increased educational investment lasting at least a decade, reform of the welfare system, making environmental sustainability the guiding principle of all government policy and forging new. constructive. attitude to

This would "not be achievable in a single parliament nor. I believe, by a single party either," he said.

In a clear development from Mr Ashdown's 1992 speech on pluralist politics at Chard, Somerset - and one that will alarm some within his own party as well as Conservatives - Mr Ashdown said his vision of "partnership politics" would avoid the inevitable "swing of the pendulum" that would re turn the Tories to power in the election after next.

In a speech conspicuously de-void of stock political attacks on either of the two main parties, Mr Ashdown said: "Partnership politics means parties which are different, distinctive and independent, offering separate choices at the ballot box, but being prepared to work together where they agree and they believe it is in the nation's inter-

st to do so.." In what might well be considered by Mr Blair to be an extremely attractive offer, Mr Ashdown said: "It is as easy, and as effective, for parties to work together across the floor of the House as it is to form a partnership on the Government

A cautious Mr Blair emphasised that a Labour government would have a Labour pro-gramme but said: "I have always made it clear that where the Liberal Democrats agree with Labour on certain items of change, for example in mod-emising Britain's constitution, then we would work with

> Leading article, page 14 Andrew Mart, page 15

## Votes pact His daughter played and the congregation quietly wept as her cello



Parting note: Myfanwy Lawrence plays Le Cygne by Saint-Saens at her father's memorial service

# quit over school

DONALD MACINTYRE

Harriet Harman, Labour health spokeswoman, made it clear last night that she would not resign despite attacks from Tories and from critics in her own party over her decision to send her son to a grammar school.

Ms Harman said: "I know the choice has been controversial but I think we made the best choice in the interests of our child. I think most parents would understand that."

Ms Harman's decision to go public in an interview on Channel 4 News came after a weekend of Tory attacks on Labour for "hypocrisy" over its anti-selection education policy, mounting criticism in the parliamentary Labour party and stormy scenes in yesterday's Commons education debate.

Ms Harman said she and her husband, TGWU official Jack Dromey, had made the decision to send their 11-year-old son, Joseph. to St Olave's gram-mar school in Orpington, Kent, because: "We made a choice available on the same terms to all the children in my constituency. This is not a private school, it's a state school." But Ms Harman was adamant that the move would

ST CLAVE'S HYPOCRISY

posing selection, and which she strongly supported. She pointed out that Labour would not abolish existing grammar schools unless it was the wish of local parents involved.

Earlier Joan Lestor, one of Ms Harman's shadow cabinet colleagues, had issued a statement in which she declared that she had supported com-prehensive education "throughout my political life". Ms Lestor added: "It is not a matter of political correctness, but of political conviction and principle." Earlier Gillian Shephard, the education secretary, had led a sustained Tory attack on Ms

"Nothing now can hide the basic contradiction and deep division at the heart of Labour education policy," she said. "Choice and diversity for some members of the Labour front bench but clearly stated and oft repeated policy intentions to remove that choice and diversity from everyone else."

David Blunkett, Labour education spokesman, faced repeated barracking from Tory backbenchers when he claimed Labour was in "total unity" on its policy but refused to offer public backing to Ms Harman.

"Every parent in every com-munity, whether they are an MP or not, should have the right to exercise a preference for their child to go to the school of their choice," he said.

Anger within the Labour party surfaced earlier when Gerry Steinberg, chairman of the backbench Labour education committee, resigned in protest at what he called Ms

Harman's contradictory stance. Mr Steinberg, MP for Durham City, said: "I have resigned from this position as a matter of protest and principle because I believe the action taken by Harriet Harman is in direct contradiction to Labour's policy on comprehensive education and somebody had to make a stand," he said.

## Taxpayers 100t ministers' £1m defence bill

**CHRIS BLACKHURST** Westminster Correspondent

Ministers have spent nearly £1m of taxpayers' money on legal advice in countering criticisms in the Scott arms to Iraq

According to a series of Parliamentary answers, the biggest spender was the Foreign Office which has paid more than £318,000 for advice for Lord Howe, the former Foreign Secretary, and William Waldegrave. the current Chief Secretary to the Treasury who served as Minister of State under Lord Howe. Others who came under the Foreign Office banner were

The Department of Trade and Industry spent £293,870 on lawyers to help former senior ministers Peter Lilley, Michael Heseltine and Paul Channon, and ex-junior ministers Alan Clark and Lord Trefgame.

Tim Renton and David Mellor.

The Attorney General Sir Nicholas Lyell's department spent £71,542 on legal advice. In addition to Sir Nicholas, another five of the former and current ministers who had their legal bills paid by the taxpayer, are also QCs. A series of Parliamentary

answers to Alan Williams. Labour MP for Swansea West

and a member of the Commons Public Accounts Committee. disclosed the extent to which ministers have sought legal advice ahead of the Scott report,

expected next month. One of those Cabinet ministers thought to have escaped censure is Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary. He was one of four ministers who signed Public Interest Immunity Certificates in the Matrix Churchill case, denying the defendants access to evidence helpful to their case. Mr Rifkind is one of three former MoD ministers to have had their legal bills covered by his old department - the others are Lord Trefgarne and Mr Clark, who were both at defence as well as DTI. A legal bill of £215,862 for the MoD may indicate how much effort was ex-

pended on Mr Rifkind's behalf. Sir Nicholas and Mr Waldegrave, are expected to be the focus of Scott's criticism among serving members of the Govemment. As Attorney-General, Sir Nicholas advised ministers on the signing of the gagging or-ders or PIICs. They are ex-pected to blame Sir Nicholas.

The Treasury is the only other department to have sought legal advice for its former and current ministers, spending

as her cello solo filled the giant space of Westminster cathedral.

For 19-year-old Myfanwy Lawrence it was the final farewell to her father, Philip, who was stabbed last month defending a pupil at his west London school.

Unity, her 13-year-old, sister. barely visible from behind the lectern, addressed a prayer for forgiveness to the packed congregation of more than 2,000 people - from royalty to freshfaced adolescents in school

For the family of Mr Lawrence, it was the final farewell. For the nation, the memorial service yesterday was a last chance to pay tribute

Unity's own prayer read: "May we find the strength to overcome anger with love ... please help us to pray for my daddy, Philip ... we pray for those who miss him so very, very

The service, led by Cardinal Basil Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster, was a poignant mixture of private recollection and public accolade. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, and the Duchess of Kent, were among those who came to pay

The life of Mr Lawrence, 48. was summed up by his fellow pupils at Ampleforth, his friends from Cambridge University where he studied English, and the pupils he inspired

through his teaching career. One former pupil described the impact Mr Lawrence made on the first day he taught them. "He bounded into our class, produced a daffodil, crushed it. let the petals fall to the ground and asked the shocked class to

write about it."
Many smiled with recognition as Patrick Topp, a former col-league, recalled Mr Lawrence's colourful bow-ties and flam-boyant waistcoats. He transformed St George's and brought back pride and enthusiasm to the Roman Catholic

But it was the image of Mr Lawrence's appetite for life from a university friend that finally moved many in the Cathedral to tears.

"The memories came flooding back ... in particular, a hairraising drive to Chichester in the middle of the night, just because it would be nice to see the dawn rise over the sea."

Mr Lawrence's widow, Frances, who was beside him when he died in hospital after emergency surgery, was also ac-companied by their son, Lucien. and their eldest daughter, Marouska, 21.

Speaking in a clear voice, Mrs Lawrence read St Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians: "If I have the gift of faith in all its fuliness, to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all," she said.



Emma's golden touch Orange blossoms Emma Thompson won two Gol-Orange, the rapidly growing den Globe awards for Sense and cellular telephone company, is to be floated on the stock mar-Sensibility, her big-screen Jane

Budding sports stars will qualify for lottery funding under new rules.

Page 5

dull with patchy rain further south.

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ket for around £2.8bn. Page 2 Today's weather Cold in the north and Scotland,

not change Labour policy op- Harman in the Commons. BUSINESS 16-20 COMMENT 14,15 CROSSWORD 24 LAW REPORT 12 LEADING ARTICLES 14

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## Labour expels 250 in power struggle

WILL BENNETT

Violence and intimidation at meetings and the recruitment of 250 members in breach of the rulebook have been uncovered by an internal Labour Party investigation into a power struggle in three Birmingham. constituencies.

Labour will expel the 250 members, who were not listed on the local electoral roll as required by party rules. The inquiry was into allegations that factions in Perry Bar, Ladywood and Sparkbrook had recruited

Some members were said to have been recruited without their knowledge, others may have been bogus names and there were allegations that block membership subscriptions had been paid often using bundles of postal orders.

The struggle is going on because four safe Labour seats in the inner city have been reduced to three by boundary changes. Although Roy Hattersley, the party's former deputy leader, has decided to stand down as MP for Sparkbrook, this has

lection of parliamentary and not ended the manoeuvring. All the constituencies have large numbers of Asian voters and in some council wards non-white residents comprise more than 60 per cent of the population. Most of the 4,000 Labour Party members in the three constituencies are Asian.

There is strong feeling among them that at least one MP should be non-white and two leading local Asian politicians are known to be be interested in challenging Roger Godsiff, whose Small Heath constituency is to disappear for the Sparkbrook nomination.

The three constituency par- they described as "disturbing." ties and their Parliamentary selection procedures have been frozen since last year when Labour announced the inquiry into allegations about membership irregularities and claims that party members had been given preferential allocation of housing repair grants.

The inquiry, carried out by four members of the party's National Executive Committee, was unable to prove or disprove the grants allegations but found that 250 party members were not on the electoral roll as required, a discovery which someone else."

The investigators interviewed local party officials and the four current local MPs, Clare Short, Jeff Rooker, Mr Godsiff and Mr Hattersley, before producing two confidential reports for Labour's Development and

Organisation Directorate. The first said: "The discussions centred on allegations of membership abuse, namely that large numbers of party members had been recruited into the party without their knowledge and furthermore had their subscriptions paid for them by

actions were all designed to influence the selection of councandidates and parliamentary candidates. Al-

legations were also made concerning the packing of selection meetings for council candidates with supporters of rival candi-

"Allegations were also made that some party members were also members of the Tory Party and leafleted for the Toxies at elections. Some party members also alleged that they had been attacked by party members during election campaigns."

The expulsions are likely to take place in May but some local party activists are suspicious that the NEC wants to keep the constituency parties suspended for as long as possi-ble and then impose Ms Short, Mr Rooker and Mr Godsiff as candidates just before the next general election.

vestigators said that annual general meetings in the three constituencies "are often characterised by intimidation and violence." They added: "Factions

are recruiting members for their own political ends."

#### IN BRIEF

Man who killed burglar in clear

A businessman will not be prosecuted over the death of an intruder he confronted at his home, the Crown Prosecution Service said yesterday.

Robert Ingham, 22, died following a struggle with Miklos Baungartner, 53, at his home at Ockbrook, Derby, last month. A post mortem examination found Mr Ingham died from a neck injury consistent with Mr Baungartner's description of the struggle, which spilt over into the front garden.

A CPS spokeswoman said: The evidence has been considered and it is insufficient to justify criminal proceedings.

#### Fake doctor jailed

An aerobics instructor who admitted posing as a doctor to treat a string of patients was jailed for six months. Christo-pher Payne, 33, described as a "Walter Mitty" character whose only medical expertise was four months as a nurse in his native South Africa, charged up to £18 a time to inject women in the buttocks, Southwark Crown Court was told.

#### TV row on hold

The High Court reserved judgment to a later date on whether the Independent Television Commission's decision to award the licence for operating the fifth television channel to Channel 5 Broadcasting was "legal-ly unreasonable". Rival bidders Virgin Television, New Century Television and UKTV argued the ITC had wrongly allowed C5B to enhance its offer after the deadline for bids.

#### Royal resignation

The private secretary to the Princess of Wales resigned. Buckingham Palace confirmed. Patrick Jephson, 39, dismissed speculation he quit after the princess failed to inform him of her controversial Panorama television interview last year.

#### Arabian knife

A curved Arab dagger used by Lawrence of Arabia is on sale in a bookshop for £5,000. The knife, given by TE Lawrence to Isaac Webb, works manager at the Brough motorcycle factory. being sold by Richard Watkins, a book and prints dealer from Stoke sub Hamdon. in Somerset.

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Sack results of the independent are assistile from

### Health row: Expert attacks lack of ministerial action over nationwide shortage of specialist paediatric units

## Act now call over child care crisis

JAMES CUSICK

Specialist intensive care treat-ment for sick children in Britain is still likely to be at crisis point beyond 2000, according to a leading member of the British Paediatric Association.

With a Government health spokesman stating yesterday there would no decision on funding for intensive care beds or clinical staff for children before the outcome of a longterm study was analysed, the Department of Health's waitand-see approach was heavily criticised by Dr David Scott, a consultant at the Conquest hospital in Hastings, east Sussex, and a council member of the BPA. "We all know what should be done, but at the moment there is no national strategy," Dr Scott said.

With the Department of Health only recently commissioning a detailed study on child intensive care to be carried out by the Medical Research Council, Dr Scott said that by the time the report was delivered and then acted upon

"it may be too late" Yesterday, The Independent revealed that in the past year alone at least 300 children have been denied urgent medical treatment because of a nationwide shortage of resources in paediatric intensive care units

(ICUs). The crisis, currently stretching staff at some of Britain's top hospitals, comes two years after a Government promise to improve child intensive care

A Department of Health spokesman said that no immediate action would be taken until the MRC report was beginning the process now."

delivered and studied. The spokesman said: "This is an in-depth study of the 17 paedi-atric ICUs. However, till this report is delivered we are considering a national data base of available ICU beds that will im-

prove the service." Despite the Department of Health emphasising the im-portance of the MRC study. ephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, is not without crucial current information on which to base future ICU strategy in the National

Health Service. Three reports by the BPA since 1992 have highlighted the inadequacy in the current level of paediatric ICU resources. A further BPA survey is expected to be completed in the next two or three weeks.

Shortages of both trained specialist nurses and physicians, and a shortage of beds in specialist units, is predicted to be the likely outcome of the study. As intensive care medicine for children has developed in

recent years, it has become an effective victim of its own success. Adult intensive care units no longer hold the expertise to deal with seriously sick children. Dr Scott said: "We-have... proved that the more energetically we improve this specialism, the better the results. Demand and pressure on paediatric ICUs has subsequently

Issuing a warning to Mr Dorrell that he should not waste valuable time, Dr Scott said: "It takes time to train specialist staff. So there is bound to be a time lag between the Government acting on MRC study and realising results. We should be

increased.



One of the lucky ones: Emily Day, 13, who is recovering from meningitis, with her father, Tony, at Leeds General Infirmary Photograph: Asadour Guze

## Wards working on goodwill and overtime

**GLENDA COOPER** 

"I run this intensive care unit on goodwill and overtime" said Carol Tate, nurse manager at Leeds General Infirmary. "I'm feel like you're blackmailing

Nurses at the children's intensive care unit at the hospital are meant to work thirty seven and a half hours a week

in twelve-hour shifts. It can across the country" he said. "We February" said Dr Darowski equally bad. "It's an intensely end up 20 hours more than that took one child from Burnley the wryly. shortage. The infirmary turned away 80 children from its ICU last year. On New Year's Day guilty of putting pressure on people to work - it makes you alone Dr Mark Darowski, a conalone Dr Mark Darowski, a conturned away 14 in all so far this

> He estimates that bed occupancy can be as high as 120 per-cent and is usually running at 90 to 100 per cent. There are five beds funded but the unit often runs six relying on nurses working overtime. Dr Darowski illness or meningitis. "It starts

pressure is unremitting." The unit itself is small with no windows, a few mobiles brighten up the room as anxious parents keep vigils around the beds. A nurse sits calmly at

every one alternately talking to the parents and jumping up as monitor alarms go off.

The winter months are the worst with the majority of children admitted with respiratory around November, we're ex-"We're moving children right pecting a breather at the end of

and still there is an acute bed other day - that's 90 miles the Across town at St James's family are having to travel so the University Hospital the situation is equally grim. There is no sep-arate paediatric unit and chil-

dren are cared for in the adult

There are a possible 18 beds but only 11 are open because of a shortfall in funding. Dr Andrew Cohen its clini-

cal director said that they had even been approached by Alder Hey, a large children's hospital in Liverpool.

shortage is not the only prob-

lem; recruiting trained nurses is

But for St James's the bed

stressful job," said Dr Cohen. "You don't get people to go down the mines unless you pay them to do so. It should be the same principle here." In the unit at Leeds Gener-

al Infirmary that quality of care does not go unnoticed. As 13year-old Emily Day, rushed in a week ago with meningitis, prepared to go home after 24-hour care at the unit, her mother, Lynne, said: "The care has been unbelievable. They never stopped. They did everything and I can never thank them enough for saving my daughter's

## Historic Newspapers, telephone 0988 402455. Policeman | Cabinet weighs Mitchell report

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## Stock market flotation for Orange phones

PETER RODGERS **Business Editor** 

Orange, the rapidly growing cellular telephone company launched less than two years ago, is to be floated on the stock market in March for around £2.8bn, making a new fortune for a wealthy Hong Kong businessman.

The expected flotation price will put a £1.5bn tag on a stake controlled by Li Ka-Shing, head of the Hutchison Whampoa group of companies, and also a £700m valuation on minority shares held by British Aerospace, which was a founding partner in the venture.

Orange has only 7 per cent of the more than 5 million customers in the highly competitive cellular telephone market, which is dominated by Vodafone and Cellnet, the first two companies to be granted licences to operate in Britain.

However, from a standing start Orange has grabbed a quarter of the much faster growing digital cellphone section of the market, which ex- the money will be used to pay perts think will eventually take off a £700m loan to Orange over most of the business,

Orange said it now had more than 400,000 subscribers and claimed it was taking 30,000 new customers a month from among the 100,000 who are signing up for digital phones, which give much higher quality and security from tapping.

telephone customers are now

Two-thirds of new cellular

opting for digital. Orange has also introduced new tariffs to

challenge Vodafone and Cellnet. Orange customers are to be mailed with offers of shares, but they will not be given any spe-Snook, managing director of Orange, said: "We don't want to distort the investment decision by offering short term in-

Its growth over less than two vears since the launch of the service in April 1994 has taken the City by surprise, partly because the track record of Hutchison in the UK had been poor. It was previously the controlling shareholder in the Rabbit telepoint system, in which subscribers could use their phones only near signposted communications points. Rabbit was eventually abandoned.

The company plans to raise £700m in cash by selling a 25 per cent stake in Orange in the share flotation, which will be aimed mainly at professional investors in London, Europe, the US and the Far East. Most of made by Hutchison and BAc. After the flotation, Hutchison

will control 55 per cent and BAe 25 per cent of the company. Orange's shareholders have invested £1.1bn of a planned total of £1.7bn in the project, and before Christmas they arranged a borrowing facility of £1.2bn from 49 international banks. City comment, page 17 | take to the hills.

### found dead on mountain JOHN ARLIDGE

Scotland Correspondent

Police rescue teams scouring a Scottish mountain for an injured colleague, who fell into a gully on Sunday, found the body of Detective Sergeant Chris Leg-

gat, 43, yesterday.

Det Sgt Leggat, who was stationed at Strathclyde Police headquarters in Glasgow, spent Sunday night on the 3,000-foot Ben Ime in Argyll in freezing conditions after rescuers failed to reach him. Severe weather forced rescue teams, supported by a Royal Navy helicopter, to call off their search.

At first light yesterday members of Strathclyde Police mountain rescue team joined civilian Arrochar mountain rescuers to comb the mist-shrouded hill. They were supported by a Sea King helicopter from

Det Sgt Leggat, of Inchinnan, Strathclyde, who was married with two sons, was found in the gully where he fell. He had been descending with a companion when he stumbled. The other man raised the alarm. Det Sgt Leggat's body

was taken to base camp in Arrochar last night. Police said his relatives had been informed. In a separate incident, mountain rescuers called off their search for a man believed to be lost near Glen Dubh, Newtonmore. The climber is thought to

have abandoned his plans to

#### on Irish peace COLIN BROWN Chief Political Correspondent A Cabinet committee will today decide Britain's response to the Mitchell Commission report on the decommissioning of

paramilitary weapons to put the Northern Ireland peace process back on track. The report could herald a

move in the Province to elect negotiating teams for the all-party talks on the long-term government of Northern Ireland. The outcome could have a bearing on John Major's hopes of holding on to power for an-

other year. He cannot afford to

upset the Ulster Unionists, on whose votes he may have to Ministers received the report last night from the commission under United States Senator George Mitchell and it will be made public tomorrow. Mr Major is expected to speak to John Bruton, the Irish Prime

Minister, today to agree a joint

response to the report. The report is expected to endorse the idea of an elected body in Northern Ireland, but not a full power-sharing assembly as proposed by the Ulster Unionists. That option was firmly rejected by Dublin and the Social and Democratic Labour Party leader, John

British ministers are keen on the idea of holding early elections to the body, which could appoint negotiating teams, to

put Sinn Fein's public support to the test. They believe it would intensify the pressure on the IRA to begin decom-

missioning of weapons.
The Mitchell Commission is expected to conclude that the IRA could be encouraged to begin decommissioning its arms; possibly through a third party, acting as an independent mon-

The timing of the decom-missioning remains the most difficult issue facing the two governments. Dublin has been trying to persuade London to drop its precondition that the IRA begin decommissioning before Sinn Fein can be admitted to all party talks, but Mr Major has said the Ulster Unionists will not sit down at the negotiating table if the arms question has not been dealt

The Ulster Unionists are holding to the "arms before talks" formula, while Sino Fein and the Dublin government are pressing for "talks before arms". It is unlikely the Mitchell Commission will have found a way round that impasse, but the elections could offer a way through.

The talks could go ahead in April, if the two governments agree. They would then challenge Sinn Fein to seek support for their views. The elected body would not run services, but would appoint teams to negotiate in private the future frame-

Concern

grows

over

bride,

aged 13

Concern for the welfare of a 13-year-old girl who dropped out of school to marry a Turkish

waiter she met on a family hol-

iday was growing last night, as

her parents stood by their

Sarah Cook, from Braintree.

Essex, fell for Musa Kumeagae,

18, when she was just 12. She

underwent a Turkish religious

marriage ceremony attended by

her parents, Adrian, 42, and Jackie, 39, two weeks ago. She

is now living in Kahraman-

maras, a remote town in south-

eastern Turkey.
Essex social services have

asked Sarah's parents to discuss

the situation at a meeting today.

Colin Davis, a social services

we can hope to do. The Foreign

Office has advised us that while

Sarah is in Turkey there is noth-

ing we can do because she is

there with parental consent.

That's the situation we are

Richard Snelling, headmas-ter of Tabor High School, in Braintree, which Sarah used to

attend, said yesterday: "We are talking about a very young girl. She's only just 13. She has four

years of education ahead of her

in England, so it's a real concern." He stressed that the 850pupil school would welcome

Sarah back at the first oppor-

tunity. "We would very much

like that to happen but it

doesn't look very likely at the

Mr Snelling became worried

about Sarah last November when she failed to return to

school after spending half-term

in Turkey. 'We alerted the ed-

ucation welfare office and, in

turn, the social services, and they then took the issue up and

dealt with the parents. From

that point, Sarah did not come

Sarah was taken off the

school roll by the local educa-

tion authority after her parents said she would receive school-

ing abroad. But Mr Sneiling said

yesterday he believed she was

not being taught in Turkey.

Mr Kumeagae reportedly

worked as a waiter in the hotel

in where the family stayed last

ummer. He is believed to have

proposed to Sarah while she was

still 12, after a three-day fling in the Mediterranean resort of

Mrs Cook told the Sun news-

paper that she and her husband had been powerless to stop

their "strong-willed" daughter

falling in love. "I don't care what

people think about her marry-

ing - because she is loved and

happy," she reportedly said.
"If I hadn't taken her back to

Turkey she would have found a

way to get there herself - and

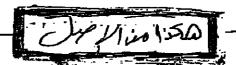
back to school," he said.

moment," he added.

faced with."

CLARE GARNER

daughter's decision.



## Golden touch puts Jane Austen on top in Hollywood

MARIANNE MACDONALD

Emma Thompson was celebrating yesterday after winning two prestigious Golden Globe awards for Sense And Sensibil-ity, the Jane Austen novel which she adapted for the big screen and in which she stars as Elinor Dashwood.

The 36-year-old actress accepted the awards - for screen-writing and best dramatic picture - on Sunday night, with a speech that might have been written by the 19th Century novelist. "It is horribly gratifying. I am bloated with pride," she told the Los Angeles audience.

Industry experts are predicting that her humorous adaptation, which goes on cinematic release in Britain on 23 February, could take some £50m in worldwide box office receipts.

Ms Thompson split up with her husband, Kenneth Branagh, during the filming last year and became close to co-star Greg Wise, 29, who plays the cad. John Willoughby.

The Austen phenomenon has been swelled by Bloomsbury's publication of Ms Thompson's screenplay and diaries of the filming process - and by a tie-in version of the novel.

A Penguin account of the making of the BBC series of Pride and Prejudice has experienced "absolutely astonishing" sales of 112,000 since it went on

sale in September, while its own tie-in version of the nov-el, with co-stars Colin Firth and Jennifer Ehle on the cover, has also clocked up sales of 148,000 since August. That Sense and Sensibility

should bag two Golden Globe awards - which are seen as pointers to the Oscars - shows the commercial potential of Austen in America.

The film has taken \$13.5m since it opened in the US six weeks ago, even though it has only been on small-scale release. The BBC series of Pride And Prejudice was watched by an average 11.1m US households on three consecutive nights last

Meanwhile Persuasion, BBC Films' subtle adaptation, just beginning its cinematic release over here, has grossed \$4m in America and features on 20 US film critics' top ten lists of films for 1995. Time magazine and the New York Post both placed it at number one.

Alison Thompson, who has been selling Persuasion abroad, describes its success in the States as "absolutely extraordinary". She admits: "I heard that an LA agent had said: 'Let's get this Jane Austen woman on the phone'.

tells darn good stories." says Fiona Finlay, the producer of

'The bottom line is that she



America loves Jane, page 15 America's favourites: Kate Winslett (left) as Marianne Dashwood and Emma Thompson as Elinor Dashwood in 'Sense and Sensibility'

Violent Britain: Vast haul of weapons renews calls for tighter controls ☐ Kitchen knife in family tragedy

# Police knife amnesty nets 40,000 weapons

JASON BENNETTO

40,000 knives, About machetes, swords and other weapons were handed in at police stations in England and Wales during a four-week amnesty, it was revealed

greeted by fresh calls from Labour and a chief constable for legislation to restrict the sale and advertisement of knives. The Home Office is some forces with large urban currently reviewing the law on areas had relatively few dangerous blades, which includes considering action against shops and mail-order

the 43 police forces still to come, the total number of The final figure is expected to macho to carry knives." be about 40,000.

The weapons were placed stations in England and Wales. Along with kitchen involved in a specific crime. and sheath knives people also

A shopkeeper handed over his

entire stock of 3,000 knives -

worth £20,000 - as part of the

national amnesty because he

was worried that they could be

run his family hardware store in Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, for 35

Reg Lindop, 72, who has

used to hurt someone.

JASON BENNETTO

Think Well

Telegraphic Property of the Park of the Pa

De De

bayonets, CS gas canisters, air pistols and knuckle dusters. Most will be melted down.

The police said the exercise, which came in response to the murder of headmaster Philip Lawrence, 48, who was stabbed outside his school in Maida Vale, west London, had been a "huge success . In th : Metropoulan Police area 3,741 knives were handed in. Staffordshire had the highest turn-out with 4,804 weapons. Surprisingly, knives given in, such as in Merseyside were the total was

Maria Wallis, Assistant With results from two of Chief Constable of Sussex Police, who co-ordinated the campaign, said: "We must weapons handed in had start getting the message to reached 37,600 yesterday, young people that it is not

She added that some of the weapons handed in might be in special bins at police forensically examined if they were believed to have been Pauline Clare, the Chief of

his shop by two police officers

who wanted a key cut. While

waiting, the officers spoke to

him about the national amnesty

Mr Lindop explained that he

began stocking 6in-bladesheath

knives two years ago but was

The officers offered to take

worried about what they might

be used for once sold.

years, decided to give up the the knives on display back to the

Lancashire

Shopkeeper gives up all 3,000 blades

Police, said vesterday that she would support new legislation to outlaw the sale of knives to people without a "legitimate" reason for wanting them. She said sales could be covered by a system of licensing similar to that for firearms.

Condon, Paul Commissioner Metropolitan Police, told the Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs last week that he would support new restrictions on the sale and advertisement of blades. He also warned of a growing knife culture among teenage

Jack Straw, Labour's home affairs spokesman, yesterday proposed new controls on knives, including a ban on their sale to people under 16 and statutory powers to control the advertising of mail-order sales and the of military-style

He is also pressing for warning labels to be attached to legitimately sold knives detailing the legal restrictions on carrying them.
The Offensive

weapons after a chance visit to station but Mr Lindop sur- ly may get hurt and it would be

prised them by handing over

several thousand that were

good job that the police con-

stables came into the shop, I had

been thinking about the knives

after the publicity over recent

stabbings and had begun to

think it was about time they were taken off the market ... I

was afraid that someone local-

He said yesterday: "It's a

stacked in a back room.

#### Force by force Avon & Somerset 281 Bedfordshire

67

300 Cambridgeshire 747 21 515 429 Cheshire City of London Cumbria Derbyshire 1,064 Devon & Comwall 1,306 418 Dyfed-Powys 1,024 Gloucestershire 429 Greater Manchester 1,397 302 Hampshire 1,127 Hertfordshire 754 796 Humberside 1,064 Lancashire Leicestershire

British Transport

Lincolnshire Mersevside Northamptonshire Northumbria North Wales North Yorkshire Nottinghamshire South Wales South Yorkshire

Staffordshire Suffolk 1,424 Sussex Thames Valley Warwickshire West Mercia West Midlands West Yorkshire Wiltshire

NB Kent & Norfolk yet to

on my conscience."

them in.

A police spokesman said:

'Mr Lindop said he would hate

to think that one of his knives

could be used to injure some-

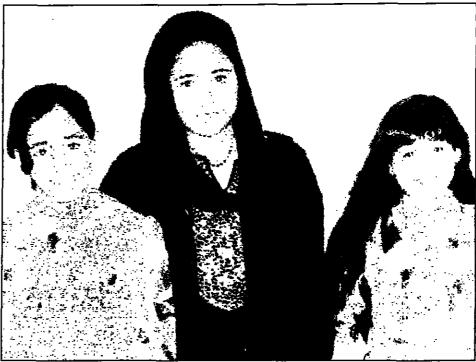
one and asked if he could hand

boost the total number of

weapons given to Staffordshire Police to 4,804 - the largest sin-

gle amount of all the forces.

The 3,000 knives helped to



## Man in court charged with his wife's murder

A 38-year-old man appeared before magistrates yesterday charged with the murder of his estranged wife outside a busy railway station.

Khalid Mahmood, of West Grove in the Montnelier area of Bristol, spoke only to confirm his name and address during the 10-minute appearance at Birmingham magistrates' court.

He was remanded in police custody until 25 January. Reporting restrictions were not lifted by the court.

Mr Mahmood is charged with the murder of 35-year-old Imtiaz Begum, who was stabbed to death in the short-stay car park at Birmingham New Street railway station last Saturday afternoon.

strangled.

Imtiaz Begum, 35, who was stabbed to death, and her

Police have confirmed that she had been a resident at a women's refuge in the Edgbaston area of the city for the past three months.

Following her stabbing, her two-year-old son, Hasan, was found in the back of a car parked at the station. It is believed that he had been

A kitchen knife with an eightinch blade was found at the

Three other children, all girls, ere found dead in an upstairs bedroom at a house in Bristol. Formal identification of the girls' bodies was due to take place yesterday but it was believed they were Saequ, 14, Saema, 11, and Uzma, 9, three of Mrs Begum's six children.

Two of the girls had had their throats cut and the other had died from multiple stab wounds.

Two other children, Talat Mahmood, 15, and Asad Mahmood, 12, are said to be safe and well and staying with relatives.

Ben Emmerson, counsel for

Lapite's family, suggested that

Lapite had actually been strug-

gling for his life. When asked to

explain the "gross disparity" of injuries sustained by the officers and Lapite. PC McCallum said

#### we might have lost our little girl forever.' A spokesman for Essex police confirmed that they were holding a meeting later in the week to decide if any offences had been committed. "Obviously we are looking at underage sex," he said. "But these offences took place in Turkey so are effectively out of our jurisdiction. We've got the other issue of a 13-year-old not attending school. There is a legal requirement for a child to attend school unless the parents can prove that adequate educational provision is being provided elsewhere."

A spokeswoman for the Turkish embassy explained that while it is illegal in Turkey to marry under the age of 18. there is a religious ceremony available to younger spouses. "It doesn't happen in cities but in small villages," she said.

Sarah's 18-year-old "husband" could, however, face prosecution for having under age sex with her, according to the embassy official.

In "very extraordinary cases" - and with a judge's permission - girls could marry at 14 and have sex below the normal age of consent, which was 18. But Sarah was too young for such a ruling and her "husband" could be charged with having sex with a girl under the legal age.

The spokeswoman said Sarah had no automatic right to an ed-

# £2,000 after girl's death

An Austrian lorry driver who with 15-year-old Amy Durling, nleaded guilty to three motorpleaded guilty to three motoring offences following the death of a newspaper delivery girl in Kent was yesterday fined a to-tal of £2,000.

Herbert Lagler, 25, from Brakrau, Austria, was fined £750 for failing to stop after the accident last Thursday, £750 for failing to report it and a further £500 for careless driving.

The bench chairman at Canterbury Magistrates' Court . Tom Steele, said before passing sentence: "The brief of this bench was not to deal with the tragic consequences of what happened last week but with three charges Herr Lagler has

Mr Steele ruled Lagler, whose lorry was in collision until the fines were paid.

Amy, of Greenhill Road, Greenhill, near Herne Bay, Kent was killed when she was knocked off her bicycle on a roundabout on the A299

Thanet Way. The court heard that Lagler was not aware that he had hit the cyclist or that there had been

Moments after the accident he pulled his lorry over to the side of the road after hearing what he thought was a

mechanical fault. He inspected his vehicle and found the bicycle underneath the trailer of his 40-ton lorry and removed it before continuing on Lagler faced for the most serious charges - of failing to stop and failing to report an accident - was six months' imprisonment.

Inspector Terry Gabriel, of Canterbury Police, who was in court when the decision was read out, said afterwards: "I think it's a very good sentence. I think it's the most we could have expected having regard to

"He did plead guilty to all the offences and that should be a credit to him.

"It is a tragedy but it's crucial for the drivers of heavy goods vehicles particularly to show that extra degree of care when driving vehicles of that

## Truck driver fined | Police 'kicked suspect in head'

son Hasan, two, believed to have been strangled

One policeman bit the body and another kicked "as hard as he could" the head of a suspect who later died in custody, an

inquest heard yesterday. Shiji Lapite, a 30-year-old Nigerian, was pronounced dead on arrival at Homerton Hospital on 16 December 1994 following an arrest by officers from Stoke Newington police station in North London.

A post-mortem showed the father-of-two died of asphyxia, the pressure used being so great that it had crushed his voicebox.

The two officers told St Pan-Lapite as "the most violent man cras Coroner's Court they had I've ever come across', susbeen "in fear for their lives" durtained one minor hand injury. Both officers said that the exing a struggle in which Lapite, according to one pathologist's treme strength of Lapite sugreport, sustained 45 different gested that he had taken drugs.

PC Wright said the two plain-Coroner Dr Stephen Chan clothes officers had stopped to question Lapite after they had could". noted that there was a "gross

disparity" between the injuries seen him acting suspiciously afstained by Lapite and the two ter leaving a restaurant. PC Wright said that Lapite had officers who had arrested him dropped a quantity of drugs when he realised police were on suspicion of possession of drugs. Neither officer could explain the disparity.
PC Paul Wright, 28, who told
the court he had bitten Lapite following him. When they attempted to arrest him on suspicion of possession Lapite after Lapite had bitten him, said resisted and a fight broke out. he had employed a necklock on

During what both officers dethe Nigerian after Lapite had atscribed as a "violent" struggle, PC Wright and Lapite had falltempted to strangle him during the course of the struggle. There en to the ground. were no recorded injuries to PC The court heard that at one point Lapite had put his hands Wright's neck, although he did sustain injuries to his arm. around PC Wright's neck. "He The other officer, PC Andrew then started to strangle me. I McCallum, 24, who described was in fear for my life and PC

McCallum's," he said. "I could not lessen his grip. "I did try to move his hands but was unable to do so. He was a very very strong man.

PC McCallum said he "had let go, stood up and kicked Lapite in the head as hard as I

he did not believe excessive force was used. The inquest continues today. | ucation in Turkey.

Is someone poaching your nest egg

Disputes in education: Protest over schools' teaching of faith 

Labour attack on nursery vouchers derailed in Commons

# Religion classes boycotted by Muslim parents

Religious Affairs Correspondent

The three-week-old Muslim dispute over religious education in which 1,500 pupils have been predominantly Christian in withdrawn from lessons at schools in West Yorkshire showed no sign of abating last

However, Muslim leaders yesterday cast doubt on suggestions that the boycott would spread around the country.

Outside Batley parents don't seem to have got together. People are either full of apathy or indifferent," Akram Khan-Cheema, a prominent Muslim educationalist and former government inspector of

schools, said. The Chief Education Officer for Kirklees council, Rob Vincent, said that no formal meetings with Muslim leaders were scheduled until next week. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from religious education, but it was never envisaged that this would be used as a weapon of mass protest.

education that teaches young children about other faiths. Although the Education Act was amended in the Lords to insist that religious instruction be character, this has not caused problems in other areas with Muslim majority schools.

The Batley boycott started after a two-year consultation process to design an RE syllabos agreeable to all faith communities. "Of course the Muslim community was fully involved and happy with the outcome," Mr Vincent said. "I think what has happened is that that led them to a more general consideration of the role of religious education.

Most of the children withdrawn from RE lessons, he said, were being instructed in Is-lam at private religious classes

Mr Khan-Cheema said: "We want our children in the primary schools not to be confused. We want them to learn about our own faith in a way that helps them to learn about life. There The protest seems directed is concern within the Muslim against the very idea of religious community that parents are jump.

people think is right for them, and not what parents want."

Other observers suggested that the reason for the trouble in Batley might lie in intra-Muslim jockeying for power. The process of accommodating Muslims into the British school system has been marked by periodic rows over halal meat, sex education and the segregation of the sexes. However, it has been proceeding more smooth-ly recently, since Muslim parents won concessions on all these issues, and Muslim educationalists have come to accept the necessity of the national

Faversham College, a girls' school in Bradford, is expected to become the first state-funded Muslim school in the country later this year.

Ibrahim Hewitt, the devel-

opment officer of the Association of Muslim Schools, said: "The key to this is in Batley. It is reflective of the very tightlyknit community there. If the local imam says jump, they will



Class apart: Children playing in the playground of Manor field Junior & Infants School, Batley

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## **Tories taunt** Blunkett for 'hypocrisy'

Parliamentary Correspondent

David Blunkett, the shadow Education Secretary, insisted Labour remained against selection and privilege in schooling yesterday, as the furore over Harriet Harman's decision to send her son to a grammar school derailed his attack on the

All-party criticism of the voucher scheme, particularly its impact on local authority nursery provision, was swamped as Gillian Shepherd, Secretary of State for Education, led Tories in an orgy of taunts.

She said the Opposition was now in "complete disarray"

over policies for encouraging parental choice and diversity. Nothing now can hide the basic contradiction and deep division at the heart of Labour education policy. "Choice and diversity for

some members of the Labour front bench but clearly stated and oft-repeated policy intentions to remove that choice and diversity from everyone else." she said. Her attack came as MPs be-

gan a second reading debate on the Nursery Education and Grant-Maintained Schools Bill. introducing a scheme entitling parents of four-year-olds to vouchers worth £1,100 to buy approved nursery provision, whether council, private or voluntary. In addition, GM schools will be given limit scope to borrow commercially.

Ms Harman was not in the chamber as her decision to send her 11-year-old son, Joe, to St Olave's School in Orpington, Kent, was repeatedly condemned by Tory backbenchers as "contemptible".

Even the mayerick George Walden, Conservative MP for Buckingham, broke off from harrying the Government over vouchers for wealthy parents to take a swipe at Mr Blunkett.

"This goes to the heart of the whole discussion of education in Britain - namely selection," he said. "The position of Mr els and advanced vocational Blunkett, and I'm sorry to say this, is morally and intellectu-

Challenged by Mrs Shepherd to justify Ms Harman's decision, Mr Blunkett said: "Every parent in every community, whether they are a member of Parliament or not, should have the right to exercise a preference for their child to go to the school of their choice.

be blocked by any mechanism that prevents a child entering that school, either on its prior attainment at the age of 11 or on the interview of parents." To Labour cheers, he added:

"That preference should not

"That is why we are against selection, why we will remain against selection, why any debate about selection is a past agenda, a dead agenda."

Nigel Waterson, Conservative MP for Eastbourne, asked Mr Blunkett whether he still agreed with what he had written in the Sheffield Star on 21 November, 1994: "I am having no truck with middle-class, left-wing parents who preach one thing and send their children to other schools outside the area'.

Inviting hoots of derision from Tories, Mr Blunkett declared there was "total unity" on the Labour side.

"We are all preaching one very simple fact and that is to lift the standard of education for every child in this country rather than the obsession with the

### Third of sixth forms 'failing'

**DOUL HINDUL** 

Sixth forms with fewer than 80 students - about a third of the total number - have difficulty in offering enough choice or in providing value for money, says a school inspectors' report pub-

lished yesterday. Schools offering both A-levqualifications (GNVQs) may need sixth forms of at least 125.

In some cases, money for pupils on GCSE courses is being squeezed so that schools can support a sixth form, says the report on 110 schools from the Office for Standards in Education.

About two-thirds of the sixth forms were providing value for money, but no school with a sixth form of fewer than 100 pupils was judged cost-effective. David West, head of the

post-compulsory education team, said: "A school needs 80 students to provide 12 A-levels. That is the minimum provision one could make to offer a fair and reasonable choice."

Eight per cent of schools have sixth forms of fewer than 50, and 22 per cent have a total roll of between 50 and 100. About 4 per cent have more than 300 students. Mr West said he hoped Sir

Ron Dearing, who is reviewing post-16 education for the Government, would offer guidance on what should be provided and on sixth form size.

The inspectors found that the number of subjects being taught ranged from 31 (in a consor-tium) to five. The average was 17. Teaching standards in sixth forms are said to be higher than those for 5- tol6-year-olds. Standards of achievement were satisfactory or better in 93 per

## Teacher stress increasing

CHRIS BLACKHURST Westminster Correspondent

Half the teachers retiring early on grounds of ill-health are doing so because of stress and anxiety, mainly brought about by the Government's education reforms, it was admitted yes-

Michael Bichard, Permanent Secretary at the Department for Education and Employment, told MPs that of the 6,075 teachers who took early retirement last year, more than 3,000 were over-stressed. The next highest causes, back problems and heart disease, said Mr Bichard, accounted for just 300

"The major cause of illhealth retirements is stress," said Mr Bichard. Asked for an explanation, he attributed the problem to "pressure on teach-

ers at the moment". Mr Bichard said the figures



**Alan Williams: Questions** 

had increased following two major pieces of legislation, the Education Reform Act in 1988 and the Further Education Act in 1992. There had been a "lot of change and restructuring", said Mr Bichard, so the rise was "not surprising".

Of the 6,075 who left because were from the independent sector. Over 35 per cent of the

total, said Mr Bichard, came from the 50 to 54 age group. Replying to questions from the Commons Public Accounts Committee examining a report showing a more than doubling in the number of teachers retiring on health grounds over the past decade, Mr Bichard said departures through poor health were also rising else-

where in the public sector. The overall totals of teachers opting for early retirement which includes ill-health - was up 3 per cent, versus 288 per cent increases in the Civil Ser-

vice and 84 per cent in the NHS.

The last Government Actuary study on how much the retirements would cost was in 1986 and showed a shortfall in the teachers' superannuation scheme of £1.5bn. Mr Bichard admitted to Alan Williams, MP of ill-health last year, only 222 for Swansea West, that computer failure meant there was no more up-to-date figure.



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Roman story: Technician Richard Tosdevin working on the skeleton of a horse at the new Roman London gallery, which opens at the Museum of London In the City on 30 January, Nearly 2,000 objects are on show, with room and street reconstructions

Photograph: Nicholas Turpin

# stars to receive lottery funding

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES Political Correspondent

"Talent funds" for grooming would-be sports stars and initiatives for access to the arts will qualify for National Lottery funding under plans set out vesterday by Virginia Bottomley. the Secretary of State for National Heritage.

Proposed changes to the 1993 National Lottery Act, allowing purely revenue funding for the first time, would enable the Arts and Sports Councils to create the new funds to help individual youngsters develop artistic and sporting skills; fund new forms of access to sports and the arts; and support major sporting events such as world championships, the minister said in a Commons writ-

The revised rules, which are set to come into effect in early April after consultation with the distributing bodies, will also allow building preservation trusts to qualify for help from

lottery proceeds.

Mrs Bottomley also indicated that she was prepared to accept proposals, due to be announced tomorrow by the Arts Council, that would allow

from help in the form of "sta-bilisation" funds - funding to help secure long-term financial viability in return for making structural and efficiency

Mrs Bottomley said yesterday that she was responding to calls for lottery money to be made available for talented young athletes, extra coaching and possible help to participants at the Olympic Games.

The changes that I am proposing will allow the Sports and Arts Councils the flexibility to respond to these demands and make lottery funds available for the first time to benefit people directly," she

The likelihood of significant funding being made available for this year's Olympics is probably remote, however, because of the short time-scale.

Mrs Bottomley said she wanted to see lottery funding investing in human talent as well as in infrastructure. Apart from helping would-be sports stars, she envisaged money being used to support youngsters vis-iting the theatre and the arts, and for artists to visit schools.

There was sufficient flexibility available for distributing applications, she said,

The lottery is a stunning opportunity for this country to in-

vest in arts, sports and heritage as never before," she said. Mrs Bottomley insisted in an earlier GMTV interview that slashing lottery jackpots would only cut the cash available for good causes. She has agreed to meet church leaders to discuss their concerns that massive iacknots, such as this week's predicted £40m double rollover, are

creating a culture of greed. Countries such as Germany and Holland, which had capped jackpois, had found substantially

fewer people playing, she said. Mrs Bottomley disputed claims that massive jackpots encouraged poor people to spend more than they could afford. "It is a very carefully monitored lottery and a very carefully regulated lottery. The average person spends £2.10 and the rich pay more than the less well off.

"I don't think there's any evidence that we are becoming a nation of gamblers any more than all those other countries in the world that have got lotteries - not many of them as suc-

# Rival rail operators

At Liverpool Street Station the brashness of the financial barrow boy has apparently invaded the tranquility of what is now described as a control

Signal operators at their "state-of-the-art workstations"

The problem is that sitting cheek-by-jowl with the signal staff are representatives of the five train-operating groups using Liverpool Street, according to exasperated union officials. They are Great Eastern Railways, Anglia Trains, the West Anglia Great Northern Railway, LTS Rail, and the Freight Trains

that its trains should not be disadvantaged when the timetable is disrupted through leaves on the line, the wrong kind of snow and other unthinking acts of an unprivatised God.

sure that his train is not always shunted off into sidings to allow the InterCity expresses are given smooth passage. The man from the West Anglia and Great Northern Railway will be keen

to see that the Flash Harrys of

InterCity are not placated at the

expense of his crowded commuter trains. Presiding over the hubbub is the equivalent of the Rev W Awdry's Fat Controller - the man from Railtrack, who is supposed to adjudicate between

the competing interests. with the signal box, the noise sometimes resembles an Arabian souk. It has got so bad that signal staff have threatened to shut the system down unless the people from the train operators restrain themselves. The lan-

guage has been known to ap-

proach the colourful. Peter King, the Rail, Maritime and Transport workers' union official for the area, believes the clamour could undermine safety. The usual complement for the centre is around two dozen, but sometimes it swells to 34 or more.

"Our people have to speak to drivers and other signal boxes on the phone. Sometimes they

Death case ship

'rolled in trials

on calm seas'

freight company will seek to en- can't hear themselves think They are often forced to whisper so that the train operators can't hear them and argue the toss over their decisions. It can get very stressful at times. Basically, it's insane.

Railtrack put up screens to deaden the noise, but some had to be taken away because there was not enough room in the box, according to Mr King.

Before the break-up of British Rail, there was a staff of around a dozen, including a BR controller who made all the decisions about which services

A Railtrack official said yesterday that management was unaware of any problems, that the control centre was large enough to accommodate the extra people with ease and that safety would always be the top priority. In any case, she said, normally only two train operators

were represented in the centre. Mr King, however, insisted that interlopers from five companies were always present, and that management had been made aware of the difficulties.

The RMT believes similar problems could develop in larger control centres all over the network as companies insist on having their four penn orth.

# give signal for chaos

**BARRIE CLEMENT** 

As our railway system enters the cut and thrust of the market lace, one signal box seems to be taking on the atmosphere of a dealing room in the City of

think on occasion.

Each company is determined

The representative of the

Plymouth Sound in late 1990,

said he was "shocked" at the

way the boat behaved. "I had

never experienced anything like

Within months, the Pescado sank 13 miles off the south

Cornwall coast after sailing

25 February, 1991, was giving evidence at the Bristol Crown

that in a calm sea," he said.

### Fitter wins £280,000 for injuries

A trawler that sank, claiming the The lost crew were skipper Neil Curry. 28; his fiancee Jo-Ann Thomas, 23; Peter Birley. lives of six people, had rolled so heavily during trials in calm seas Barrie Clement. that water came on deck, a court was told yesterday. Sean Deakin, 27, the skipper of the *Pescado* for the trials in

sea trial the Pescado's compass was up to 90 degrees out. "Mr O'Connor never really had any time for anything I said. He always treated me with con-

rolled "heavily and sluggishly" because he believed an extra fuel tank had been installed. "I was beginning to look deeper into the boat. The more I

Court trial arising from the loss of all six crew. Alan Ayres, 56, and Joseph O'Connor, 44, director and managing agent respectively of the firm that owned the lashed to the rails instead of being in cradles where they could Pescado, Guideday Ltd., deny

manslaughter. Mr Deakin told the court the vessel heeled over more than it should when fishing gear was lowered. "There was a lot of water coming on to the deck."
The prosecution alleges that

the 100-ton Pescado was unseaworthy and unstable. It says that Mr Ayres and Mr O'Connor were in breach of a duty of care to the crew for their safety, which amounted to gross 34: Steven Hardy. 33: Sean Kelly, 17; and Adrian Flynn, 21. Mr Deakin said on a second

tempt," he said. Mr Deakin said the vessel

from Falmouth. Mr Deakin, who was not on board when she went down in 240ft of water on looked, the worse it got. It was just a bodged job, he said. Mr Deakin said he mentioned a list of missing safety equipment. Two out-of-date life-rafts were subsequently

> float free in a sinking. Mr Deakin said that when he asked when the Department of Transport would inspect the vessel Mr O'Connor told him: Hopefully, if we can get away

> with it, he won't be coming." Next day, with the boat ready for sea, Mr Deakin made up a story to get out of sailing. "I did not want to go to sea. I would not go to sea because it was unseaworthy," he said. In mid-January 1991 he resigned.

The trial continues today.

A Royal Navy employee has been awarded £280,000 after suffering brain damage through contact with a chemical in use

throughout industry, writes

The out-of-court settlement could lead to claims from thousands of workers who are exposed to the powerful solvent methyl ethyl ketone (MEK), according to the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union which backed the case.

After exposure to five times the legal limit of the substance, Tony Bradshaw, a 57-year-old fitter, now suffers from cerebellar ataxia, which affects speech, co-ordination and mobility.

member of the AEEU, said the chemical was in everyday use throughout the country and should be banned.

Part of Mr Bradshaw's job at the Royal Naval Armaments Depot at Gosport, Hampshire, involved working on missile warheads. Mr Bradshaw, who worked at the site from 1972 to 1986, was required to use MEK as a stronger substitute for

By the early 1980s Mr Bradshaw began to experience dif-ficulties in holding a pen and writing. "My brain tells me to do something and my body simply won't respond. I feel as if a brick wall has come down on my life," he said.

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Battle of the spin doctors: Demise of media chief blamed on in-fighting with the party's modernisers

## 'Traditionalist' Labour aide resigns

JOHN RENTOUL Political Correspondent

Tony Blair's critics in the Labour Party were handed more ammunition last night by the resignation of Joy Johnson. the party's media director - a case, some Labour MPs believe. of a traditionalist squeezed out

by modernisers.

Ms Johnson, who took the job in February last year, fell out with Alastair Campbell, Mr Blair's press secretary, and Peter Mandelson, the Labour leader's close adviser.

Rival factions in the party were putting differing interpretations on her demise. Mr Campbell and Mr Mandelson are derided by traditionalist Labour MPs as "spin doctors" and accused of pushing a hidden agenda of ditching social-

Ms Johnson disagreed with Mr Campbell's attempt to bully the BBC by public fax into giving prominent coverage to Mr Blair's conference speech on the same day as the O.J. Simpson trial verdict. This was, however, more a personality clash than an ideological dispute.

Ms Johnson, while previously at the BBC, was in charge of party conference coverage and was credited with revolutionising the way they were presented. She obviously thought she knew more about how to get better coverage out of the BBC than Mr Campbell.

Meanwhile, some of Mr Blair's allies were suspicious of Ms Johnson because, as a party member, she voted for Margaret Beckett in the 1994 leadership election. She was also accused of devoting some of her energies to promoting the cause of Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, rather than the par-

ty as a whole. Her notes for the party's election conference guide last October were read by some as coded attacks on Mr Blair's aides. "I am not a spin doctor for the very good reason we won't win by spin. We will win by getting our policies right." she said, in what was taken as a reference to Mr Mandelson.

She went on, allegedly referring to Mr Campbell: "I don't come from the self-regarding media school which believes that press officers or



terribly interesting people or that we deserve a profile at least as high as the politicians we

However, Mr Blair approved her appointment last year, and she was for a time a trusted member of the inner circle. Virtually her first meeting in her new job was one that took place in the New Forest home of Chris Powell, head of the party's advertising agency and brother of Jonathan Powell, this meeting which prompted a furious behind-the-scenes out- of the by-election campaign. burst from John Prescott, the Labour deputy leader, who was not invited

She was also a member of the team which planned the strat-egy for the Littleborough and Saddleworth by-election campaign. Labour's attack on the Liberal Democrat candidate as "high on tax and soft on drugs" was condemned as cynical and counter-productive by several

of the by-election campaign. The fundamental problem

was not political, according to one friend yesterday. Ms Johnson realised she still wanted to be a journalist when she heard a political news story on her car radio recently: "Her first instinct was that she wanted to cover the story, not sort it out," said the

But the decision to go was solely hers, the friend insisted: "She went because in the end she realised she was a journalist at heart.'

The voices of New Labour

Peter Mandelson (left) - Age: 42. Salary: MP's: £34,000. Former Young Communist, became moderniser at Oxford. Appointed communications director 1985, effect

ed MP in 1992. Now planning general election campaign. Joy Johnson (above) - Age: 45. Salary: was £34,000.

Head of campaigns, elections and media (was political journalist at both BBC and ITV before joining Labour.

lastair Campbell (right) - Age: 38. Salary: about

£50,000. Enthusiastic propagandist for Labour modemisers both as journalist at Daily Mirror and Today, and,

since 1994 conference, as Tony Blair's press secretary.

Ms Johnson was a journalist for 16 years, first with ITN and then with the BBC, which she joined in 1990 as political news organiser. She was later promoted to political news editor.

Her BBC connections were the focus of repeated attacks from the Conservatives, both on the BBC and Labour. She was erage of Labour's special con- cards to be scrapped.

HEATHER MILLS

Home Affairs Correspondent

The building of five child jails Michael Howard's answer to

out-of-control young offenders - appears doomed.

A year after the first of the

privately run secure training

centres was supposed to be up

and running, two are still bogged down in planning diffi-

culties and no contract has

been signed with any company

to build or run the other three.

specifications for daily regimes for the 12- to 14-year-old inmates. According to Whitehall

sources, the two "divorced" groups working within the Home Office had not agreed ba-

sic regime standards before the

first tenders went out and costs

are now being revised upwards.

none of the five mini jails - a key

component of the Home Sec-

retary's 1994 Criminal Justice

and Public Order Act - will be

built before a general election.

With Labour opposed to them

- preferring to build more local-

authority secure places - a ques-

It now looks certain that

In fact, tenders are having to be resubmitted to meet new

ference to revise clause IV of the party's constitution. After Tory protests that this was free coverage of a victory for Mr Blair on an issue of his own choosing, the programme was

scaled down. Ms Johnson's only known clash with Mr Blair was over a "saucy" Labour Christmas card showing a condom and a topless woman saying "spank me"

involved in the early decision to provide four hours of live cov- Labour leader ordered the Child jails plan

entire project. If contracts are

signed before an election, a

victorious Labour government would be called on to amend leg-

man on home affairs, said yes-

terday: "We will certainly

inherit a mess. But it is not pos-

sible to say exactly what we will

do with these places until we are in government and until we

know the full story and the

and penal reform groups who believe that asking private com-mercial firms with no experience

of caring for difficult young people is indefensible. Yesterday probation officers

and penal reform groups called

on the Government to "abort

this misguided proposal". Har-

ry Fletcher, the assistant general

secretary of the National Asso-

ciation of Probation Officers.

said: "It is not surprising that this

scheme is in extreme difficulties.

It went ahead despite all pro-

fessional opinion. The Home

Office is now realising that the

centres will be extremely ex-

pensive to run and will do noth-

The scheme has met with a storm of protest from opposition

terms of the contracts."

islation and buy them out. Jack Straw, Labour spokes-

looks doomed



## Crashed \* Chinook had sent message

War.

inve

A message from an RAF Chinook helicopter went unanswered by air-traffic controllers less than five minutes before it ploughed into the Mull of Kintyre, an inquiry heard vesterday.

The message was revealed on a tape recording after the crash on 2 June 1994, an Royal Air Force flight-traffic control officer told the inquiry at Paisley. Strathelyde.

But there was no response to the transmission, Flight Lieutenant Miller said. "My opinion is that the transmission was not heard by the control staff." A Belfast air-traffic controller told the inquiry that a transcript of the message showed the call sign of the

after taking off. The inquiry had already heard that the aircraft crashed at around opm - killing 10 se-nior Royal Ulster Constabulary officers, nine army intelligence officers, six M15 officials, and the four-man RAF crew.

Chinook as it passed out of her airspace at Aldergrove shortly

Earlier a crash investigator said he could not rule out jammed controls as a possible cause. Department of Transport inspector Anthony Cable also told the in-quiry that wind conditions could

have played a part. The inquiry also heard that one of the two pilots, Fl Lt Richard Cook, voiced concerns about the engine computers on the day of the accident. The duty RAF authorising officer in Northern Ireland that day said he had asked Fl Lt Cook that morning how he was getting on with the newly introduced Mark Two Chinook and had been told there were some problems with

the engine control units. The inquiry continues today.

#### Revised Interest Rates. Amended Investment and Savings Rates.

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Minimum Investment	Gross*	Gross CAR**	Net	
	Panus Builde	<u> </u>	†	
Bonus Builder (Annually)** £100,000+   6.00%   -   4.50%				
£50,000	5.75%	<del></del>	4.31	
£25,000	5.55%		4.16	
£10,000	5.00%		3.75	
£5,000	4.45%		3.34	
	Bonus Builde	r (Monthly)**		
£100,000+	5.87%	_	4.40	
£50,000	5.63%	-	4.22	
£25,000	5.44%		4.08	
£10,000	4.91%	-	3.68	
£5,000	4.38%	-	3.29	
Bri		Interest (Ann		
£100,000+	5.25%		3.94	
£50,000	5.00%		3.75	
£25,000	4.80%	-	3.60	
£10,000	4.25%		3.19	
£5,000	3.70%		2.78	
		Income (Mor		
£100,000+	5.13%	5.25%	3.85	
£50,000	4.89%	5.00%	3.67	
£25,000	4.70%	4.80%	3.53	
£10,000	4.17%	4.25%	3.13	
£5,000	3.64%	3.70%	2.73	
£2,500	3.01%	3.05%	2.26	
		Access (Annu		
£25,000+	3.75%	<u> </u>	2.81	
£10,000	3.45%		2.59	
£5,000	3.15%		2.36	
£2,500	3.05%		2.29	
£500	2.85%	-	2.14	
£250	0.50%		0.38	
£100	0.25%		0.19	
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£500-£9,999	1.00%	1.00%	0.75	
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E100,000+	5.75%	-		

DAILY POEM

By Eustache Deschamps

Rondel

Lice, fleas, a tench, and rooting swine, This is Bohemia all told, Bread, salt fish, and an iron cold.

Foul cabbages, black pepper, leeks, to dine With and smoked flesh, burns, gristled, old: Lice, fleas, a tench, and rooting swine.

tion mark now hangs over the ing to reduce crime."

Two platters twenty trough like swine, Bilge beer you almost spew to hold, A lightless pallet, straw, and soiled, Lice, fleas, a tench, and rooting swine, That is Bohemia all told. Bread, salt fish, and an iron cold.

This Breughel-esque scene of sparse food and bitter cold in Bohemia in the 14th century springs from the pen of Eustache Deschamps (c.1346-1406), a member of the French court who visited the kingdom of Bohemia in the reign of Charles IV. It is one of 100 or so poems, spanning 600 years of lytic and courtly poetry, collected and translated as Transfusions by David Burnett and published by Cloud (48 Biddlestone Road, Heaton, Newcastle upon Tyne NE6 5SL, 0191-265 4102) at £7.95.

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## international

Chechen leader

delivers fresh

Bosnia killing fields: UN tribunal chief orders inspection under the protection of Nato forces

## War-crimes team to investigate mass graves

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY

With more reports emerging of mass graves in Serb-occupied parts of Bosnia, Justice Richard Goldstone, head of the United Nations tribunal prosecuting war crimes, said his investigators would begin examining the sites soon under the protection of Nato peace-keepers.

The US assistant secretary for human rights, John Shattuck, who returned to Sarajevo yesterday after touring sites identified as graves containing thousands of bodies, was also expected to urge the peace-im-plementation force, I-For, to do all in its power to aid the investigation. But Mr Shattuck said his new priority was the fate of hundreds of prisoners of war still held by all three sides in the conflict, despite a deadline of last Friday for their release under the Dayton peace plan. "I will be ... continuing to pursue very hard the release of prisoners. All prisoners who've been visited by the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) should be re-leased," Mr Shattuck said.

The main grave sites are in Serb territory but some had been identified in areas held by Muslims and Croats for most of the war, British sources said. After Judge Goldstone met Ad-miral Leighton Smith, the I-For commander, yesterday they said the peace-keepers would help provide area security "for tribunal teams carrying out investigations and activities at mass grave sites". Significantly, the word "alleged" has been absent from recent statements.

Admiral Smith remains wary of promising too much, however. An official from the war crimes tribunal will be attached to I-For, but further "public discussion" of mass graves is to be

Brcko

Sites of suspected war crimes in Bosnia

guard specific grave sites". The problem is mainly one of resources but also stems from trying to avoid being dragged into tasks outside I-For's mandate. Last week British divers were sent into a flooded mine near Ljubija, south-west of Prijedor, but found nothing and were withdrawn after altercations among ARRC commanders. Diverting aircraft to take photographs is much easier. however, and Admiral Smith



sources have said up to 8,000

bodies may have been dumped.

visited by Mr Shattuck at the

weekend. He said up to 7,000

people might be buried there.

As more 1-For troops pour in, the resources problem will di-minish. British 1-For sources

said that if the withdrawal of

Bosnian Croat troops from the

400-square mile area they have

to evacuate by 3 February goes

according to plan, it will release

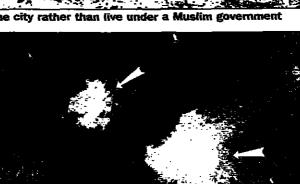
troops to guard and assist tri-

bunal investigators.

avoided, demonstrating the are Ljubija, where Croatian peace-keepers' sensitivity over the issue. At the weekend he confirmed that Nato aircraft would photograph two alleged grave sites but yesterday I-For declined to identify them.

On Sunday a spokesman for Nato's Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC), the bulk of the implementation force, said it was possible troops might surround grave sites this week but Admiral Smith then said "Nato is not, repeat not, going to

said I-For aircraft would watch for any signs that evidence was being removed before tribunal



Arrows on a US spy satellite photograph indicate the sites of suspected mass graves Photographs: Reuter

taunt to Yeltsin HELEN WOMACK Salman Raduyev, leader of the

Chechen hostage-takers who escaped four days of bombard-ment by Russian forces in Dagestan last week, emerged unscathed in a mountain hideout in Chechnya yesterday and promised to carry on the fight for independence.

The only thing we demand is [that the Russians] leave our republic in peace." Mr Raduyev said. Taunting the authorities in Moscow, the Chechen rebels who escaped the siege of Pervomayskoye have said they will today unconditionally release a group of hostages they took with them, in the presence of jour-nalists, inside Chechnya itself.

If the release goes ahead as promised, in the eastern Chechen town of Novogroznensky, it will further embarrass President Boris Yeltsin, who is facing a barrage of criticism for his handling of the crisis in Dagestan, at the end of which, 82 out of more than 100 hostages were saved. Chief among those complaining yes-terday was Alexander Lebed, the retired general, standing in June's presidential election, who called the military operation a "national disgrace".

By American standards, losing 20 per cent of the hostages in an operation is considered unsatisfactory," said Gen Lebed. "By Israeli standards,

satisfactory. It is interesting -what standards operate here?"

According to opinion polls, ordinary Russians seemed ready to give Mr Yeltsin the benefit of the doubt last Monday, when he ordered a frontal assault on Pervomayskoye, where the Chechens had stopped after dragging their hostages from Kizlyar.

But many are now disillusioned by the obvious lies the Kremlin has been telling. The Federal Security Service (FSB), the successor to the notorious KGB, justified the storming of the village by saying the Mus-lim militants had started shooting their hostages, although eyewitnesses later said this was

not true. Last Wednesday, with some 40 of the hostages freed, the FSB explained the army's use of Grad missiles by saying it was certain there were no more hostages left alive - yet another 40 or so were rescued later.

Today's release may show how many hostages there were altogether and how many rebels got away. The Chechens plan to eep some Russian police officers for future swaps.

If this were not awkward enough for Mr Yeltsin, Russians have since seen how, by contrast, Turkey solved a hostage drama on the Black Sea - where pro-Chechen guerrillas seized a passenger ferry - without a single shot being fired.

# PM's resignation a blow to multi-cultural ideal

**TONY BARBER Europe Editor** 

Bosnia's ruling party, the Muscratic Action (SDA), appears to have succeeded in forcing the resignation of Haris Silajdzic. the Prime Minister, and a leading advocate of an integrated. multi-cultural Bosnian state.

On Sunday he said he intended to quit because Muslim nationalists in the SDA had forced a vote through parliament limiting the authority of the new Bosnian central government to be set up under last month's Paris peace settlement.

SDA leaders nominated Hasan Muratovic, a minister without portfolio, to replace Mr Silajdzic. Mr Muratovic is not an SDA member and is not associated with the Muslim nationalist wing of Bosnian politics, but even so the resignation of Mr Silajdzic would deal a blow to moderate Muslim political forces striving to restore some of Bosnia's pre-war multi-culturalism.

central one with relatively weak powers for the whole country. SDA leaders had been able to and a government each for the Muslim-Croat federation and the Bosnian Serb republic into which Bosnia is to be physically divided. Mr Silajdzic wanted the central government to have seven ministers, but the SDA bloc in parliament passed a

vote limiting it to six. At the root of the dispute were contrasting visions of postwar Bosnia. Mr Silajdzic has emphasised the need to reconcile Muslims and moderate Croats and Serbs, but SDA nationalists want greater efforts to pro-

mote Bosnia's Muslim identity. Many Bosnian Croats believe the SDA would seek to dominate the Muslim-Croat federation. "The more Muslim leaders talk of a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-religious Bosnia-Herzegovina, the more a Jamahiriya [Libyan-style gov-ernment] is being established on territories controlled by Muslim forces," said a Bosnian Croat ra-

Under the Paris deal, Bosnia dio editor, Ivan Krizdic, A foris to have three governments: a mer Bosnian deputy prime minister, Zlatko Lagumdzija, said advance the Muslim national ist cause because the party's middle ranks consisted of mere time-servers. "The large middle of the SDA is made up of apparatchiks who once served Marx [in Communist Yugoslavia] and now serve uhammad." he said.

Bosnian newspaper reports suggested vesterday that Mr Muratovic was unhappy at the way the SDA had pushed out Mr Silajdzic, but would nevertheless agree to accept the pre-miership. Mr Muratovic, 55, is a former academic and businessman who once ran a bus company in Zambia and had commercial interests in Iraq.

Mr Sīlaidzic is līkelv to be followed out of the government by the Foreign Minister, Muhamed Sacirbey, who announced two months ago that he would resign. He is expected to be replaced by a Croat in the future central Bosnian government.

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## Britain bars publicity campaign for 'Euro'

Sarah Helm

Fearing a new cruption of con-ally to Jacques Santer, President struck a far more positive note troversy over monetary union, of the European Commission the Government has blocked last week, warning against any the European Commission

Commission-backed campaign

from extending its single cur- in Britain. rency publicity campaign to Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, meeting finance ministers As European leaders arrived in Brussels yesterday, said it in Brussels to inaugurate the would be unwise to launch the publicity drive, the Commission publicity drive, the Commission single currency campaign in conceded it would not now be Britain until there was greater able to carry out its programme certainty about monetary union in Britain, due to the refusal of and an atmosphere of "calm". the Government to co-operate. However, Mr Clarke, who paid David Davis, the Foreign a lightning visit to the opening Office Minister, wrote person-conference of the campaign,

than his Euro-sceptic colleagues about the need to inform the British public "sooner or later".

"I have always said we need an informed debate in the UK," said Mr Clarke, who stuck by his assertion last month that there is a 60-40 chance that monetary union will happen. "A Commission campaign ... is not at the present stage the best way of taking the matter forward. Sooner or later it is obvious the more we have an informed debate the better.'

The Commission had continuing uncertainty about December to call it the Euro-nticipated a cool response whether the 1999 launch of A survey showed that 47 per anticipated a cool response from Britain to its single cur-rency publicity proposals. Offimonetary union can be achieved, several other governments are backpedalling. cials attempted to play down the seriousness of the snub yester-German leaders were markedday. The publicity campaign was ly absent from yesterday's pubalways intended to be conlicity launch; the entire ducted "in co-operation" with the member states, they said.

conference was low key.
A poli published yesterday by However, it is clear that Comthe Commission to coincide mission plans for TV advertising and widescale public conferences will be scaled down more people in the EU are in - and not solely because of favour of the single currency by domestic turmoil and British objections. Given the since the decision was made in to provide a clear lead.

cent of Europeans are in favour of the new currency; 37 per cent

During the finance ministers' discussion yesterday ministers made their first attempt of the atmosphere of the first-day year to sharpen the focus of the ingle currency debate. There are growing signs that the Italian government, which holds the with the launch showed that EU presidency for the first half of the year, may be distracted by domestic turmoil and unable

The ministers sought, however, to revive confidence in Euthat gloomy figures released last week represented a "pause" in economic growth "not a slow-

Mr Clarke set out Britain's agenda for the coming months, repeating the Prime Minister's istence that priority must be given to studying the relationship between currencies which join monetary union in 1999 and those which stay outside. In a four-point letter to

Single currency: Clarke says Brussels promotion should be delayed until atmosphere of 'calm' prevails

Prime Minister and Finance Minister, Mr Clarke has called for reassurances from its partners that countries which do not join the single currency at the launch will be able to join, without penalties, at a later

The letter appears to indicate new fears within the Treasury that if Britain does stand outside at first, it may find itself per-manently excluded from an inner core of EU countries. Those who chose to join EMU later must be able to do so on the same terms as the others,

## Austria arms caches awaken Cold War ghost

Central Europe Correspondent

Austria has had an uncomfortable reminder of its days on the zones in Europe. front line of the Cold War with the revelation that US arms seyears ago to counter a possible Soviet takeover could still be

Government officials conbaffled by news of the 79 arsenals, disclosed by the US ambassador to Austria, Swanee Hunt, over the weekend. Chancellor Franz Vranitzky has demanded precise details of the at their highest. Centred on locations of the arsenals, which reportedly each contained chough guns, pistols and explosives for some 150 anti-Communist rebels, and even substantial amounts of gold.

Mr Vranitzky also plans to ask the three other powers that occupied Austria for 10 years after the war - France, Britain and Russia (as the successor to the Soviet Union) - whether they, too, stashed arms in case of a The Third Man. Given the ten-

possible conflict. bassy in Vienna said yesterday that he had "no information whatsoever" about any possible British arms caches and that the said they were established at the embassy had not been approached by the Austrian gov-

media: "It was probable that Britain had taken similar steps [to the US] at the time in its

cretly hidden more than 40 arsenals had only come to light recently after the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) deburied in depots throughout the country. cided to inform Congress about them. She said she was sorry Austria "was informed so late fessed yesterday that they were about the matter", describing it as a "relic from the Cold War".

The arms depots are believed to have been set up in the late 1940s and early 1950s, when Cold War tensions were Salzburg, the heart of the US occupation zone in Austria, the used by US-backed resistance fighters, similar to the Gladio fighters in Italy.

For 10 years after the war, Austria was split into four ocenna was divided, in a Cold War atmosphere immortalised by sions of the time, most Austri-An official at the British em- and have been reluctant to condemn the existence of the US arms arsenals. Some former resistance fighters have even request of the then government, terrified at the prospect

### Vintage flood leaves a French vineyard reflecting on brighter times



Brandy and water: Vineyards at Chateauneuf, in Cognac, south-west France, inundated by the Charente river, which burst its banks after heavy rain Photograph: Brian Harris

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## rowed coronary artery. Financial markets, which some feared would drop because of his illness, appeared unaffected. Reuter

Italian prefers jail to mother's moaning Rome --- A 32-year-old Italian confined to house arrest pending

an appeal against conviction for armed robbery has begged the police in the northern town of Brescia to take him to jail so he can escape his nagging mother's moaning.

Leaders meet to stop fighting in KwaZulu Pretoria - President Nelson Mandela and his rival, the Zulu nationalist leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, agreed the only way to stop fighting between their supporters was to call a meeting of the Zulu nation to allow the warring parties to air their griev-ances. They met briefly at Mr Mandela's residence to discuss in-creased attacks and clashes that have killed scores of people in recent weeks in the Zulu homeland of KwaZulu.

Tajik spiritual leader shot dead

Almaty — The pro-Moscow Muslim spiritual leader of the central Asian state of Tajikistan, Mufti Fatkhullo Sharifzoda, 53, was shot dead with his wife, son and daughter-in-law. Officials reached by telephone from the Kazakh capital, Almaty, said they were killed by unknown assailants at his Dushanbe home Reuter

Shia sheikh arrested in Bahrain

Manama — Sheikh Abdul Ameer al-Jamri, 57,a Shia cleric and opposition leader in Bahrain, has been detained after two days under house arrest, his wife said. The cleric's arrest came after a fresh, three-day wave of unrest in the Gulf island state. AP Hillary offers to answer new questions

Washington — In an attempt to dispel doubts about her integrity, Hillary Clinton offered to answer new questions about the Whitewater affair. Chief among these is how her law firm billing records resurfaced after it was claimed they could not be found.



Supporters mob Imelda Marcos as she arrives at the Philippines Congress yesterday where she is leading opposition to an anti-terrorist bill

Thatcher praises Philippines progress

Manila - Lady Thatcher praised economic growth in the Philippines, saying she saw "traces of Thatcherism" in its economic reforms. She also expressed support for the government's campaign against international terrorism - the focus of a debate over charges that President Fidel Ramos is trying to expand police powers. AP

Patten slumps in popularity polls

Hong Kong — Governor Chris Patten's popularity has dropped to a new low, a survey by the Chinese-language Ming Pao Daily News said. But China's top officials in Hong Kong, Zhou Nan and Zhang Junsheng, scored lower than Mr Patten. Reuter

Singapore - Lee Kuan Yew, the former leader of Singapore, is out of intensive care and doing well after treatment for a nar-

Elder statesman out of intensive care

### pressed for a complete ban Diplomatic Editor

Nuclear five

MICHAEL SHERIDAN

The world's nuclear powers, including Britain, will come under fresh pressure to move towards complete nuclear disarmament at talks to achieve a comprehensive treaty to ban nuclear tests opening at the United Nations in Geneva today.

The five declared nuclear states — Britain, France, US, Russia and China — face calls by countries as diverse as India and Australia to work for the elimination of nuclear weapons. They all say they believe in a test ban treaty, but do not want to

broaden the agenda any further. The five nations are seeking to blunt the campaign by arguing that priority should be given to achieving a test ban treaty by the agreed target date next September, when it should be placed before the UN General

Assembly
"We shall resist any effort to link this treaty to other aspects of nuclear disarmament," a Western diplomat said yesterday. The UN regards a test ban treaty as "one of the most prominent issues on the international disarmament agenda since 1954" and its conclusion would be a great prize, as would an accompanying agreement to ban the production of fissile

material for weapons. But the controversy over French nuclear tests in the Pacific has given new vigour to ef-forts to compel the five to live up to their existing treaty commitments. The nuclear states formally pledged to work for the removal of all nuclear weapons when they renewed indefinitely the Nuclear Non-Proliferation

Treaty (NPT) last year. The NPT confirms the five as the only recognised possessors of nuclear weapons, and provides the main instrument to curb the nuclear aspirations of countries such as Iran and North Korea. It was extended only after a taut round of negotiations which left many Third World countries feeling they had been strong-armed into acceptance.

British ministers are on the

record as saving that "nuclear weapons cannot be dis-inventand the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, said when he was Secretary of State for Defence that the British Trident nuclear deterrent was the "minimum credible" force - a formula that self-evidently allows no negotiated reduction with-

out loss of credibility. The Australian Prime Minister, Paul Keating, yesterday launched a 17-member group of international experts, the Can-berra Commission, to prepare proposals for complete nuclear disarmament to put to the

General Assembly. "We've got a fortuitous pause in the arms race," Mr Keating said. "We have to be careful that we don't get into a multi-polar game with the likes of Iraq, per-haps Iran, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel developing

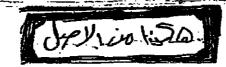
nuclear weapons."
The Commission includes the British scientist and Nobel Peace Laureate, Joseph Rotblat, the former French prime minister Michel Rocard (his presence a dig at President Jacques Chirac, who is to order one last French test in the near future) and the Vietnam-era US Defense Secretary Robert McNamara.

"My contention is the indefinite combination of these weapons and human fallibility will lead to destruction," Mr McNamara said yesterday. "There is no learning curve with nuclear weapons - you make a mistake here and you destroy a nation."

The Geneva talks could provide a forum for considerable pressure on the nuclear powers although, in the end, their critics will not obstruct a test ban treaty merely to make a political point.

There will, however, be calls to extend the ban to include "sub-critical" laboratory tests

which stop short of an explosion. These will be resisted. The major powers, with the possible exception of China, all own or have access to sophisticated computer simulations which should make test explosions



## Election opens the way for Palestinian state 'within two years'

PATRICK COCKBURN

Ter times

A Palestinian state could be set

up in two years, a senior mem-ber of the PLO said yesterday. "If talks make progress, a Palestinian state could be established before the end of the three-year term of the [Pales-

Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, who negotiated the Oslo accords in 1993.

Although final figures for the election to the 88-member Palestinian Council have not been announced because of recounts, Mr Arafat's faction Fatah and its independent sup-

porters are believed to have won 60 seats. Mr Arafat was easily elected President with 88 per

cent of the vote. A number of powerful independents also came top of the poll in their districts. These include Haidar Abdel-Shafi, the former head of the PLO's team to the peace talks in Washing-

spokeswoman of the delegation, and Ziad Abu Amr, a political

science professor.
In Gaza, the Islamic movement Hamas decided at the last moment not to boycott the election and told its supporters to vote for sympathetic candidates, at least three of whom

tion, surprising given that can-didates more closely associated with the organisation had earlier been forced to drop out, contributed to the 90 per cent

turn-out in Gaza. Successful independents were generally supporters of the peace negotiations with Israel,

but have had disputes with Mr Arafat. In Bethlehem, for in-stance, Salah Tamari. a charismatic figure who was a Palestinian military leader in Lebanon where he was captured by Israel, beat a wealthy con-

RUPERT CORNWELL

Concord, New Hampshire

A piece of America's most cherished presidential lore may be crumbling: that New Hamp-

shire and its "first-in-the-nation"

primary is the one place where

money cannot buy electoral

success, where an intimate

brand of "retail politics" can

make or break the mightiest of

For decades, every fourth

winter in an otherwise small and

George Bush. And outwardly at

Candidates still work the

into the sitting-rooms of ordi-

nary voters and battle though

blizzards to attend obscure lo-

cal party dinners - all in pursuit

of the state's 200,000-odd Re-

But the tradition is under

threat from two changes - one

unmissable to even the most

fleeting visitor, the other more

insidious. With a television and

least, 1996 is the same.

publican voters.

White House candidacies.

tractor supported by Mr Arafat by 10,000 votes. The peaceful and well-or-

political fortunes of Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minis-ter. He was himself selected by the Labour party as its candidate for the premiership at the

weekend. Meanwhile, Meir Shetreet, a Likud member of Knesset, says his party should abandon its op-

White House race: Forbes spends millions for votes

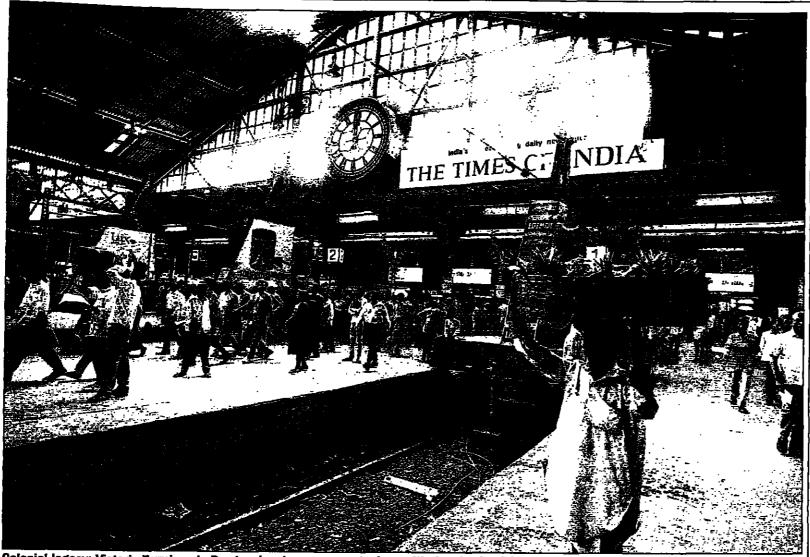
TV blitz dents

cosy image of

New Hampshire

position to the Oslo accords in the general election later in the year. He says it should argue that it accepts them but will get a better deal than the Labour government when it comes to negotiating on the final status of Jerusalem, settlements, and other outstanding issues.

News analysis, page 13



Colonial legacy: Victoria Terminus in Bombay has been renamed, along with the city, by right-wing Hindu politicians

TIM MCGIRK

Stone by stone, nameplate by nameplate, India is obliterating its memories of the British empire. The latest casualty is the grand Victoria Terminus railway station in Bombay - or Mumbai as the city's right-wing Hindu masters now call it.

The largest edifice built during British rule in India, the Victoria Terminus looks like St Pancras station done up for a fancy dress party, with turbanlike Mughal domes and spires. that several generations of surly The late James Cameron, the noted journalist, drew a big breath and described the Vic-Gothic-Saracenic-Italianate-

Oriental-St Pancras-Baroque". Ever since the first locomotive hissed up to the platform in 1887, the station has been known by travellers - who are now 2 million a day, filling nearly 1,000 trains - as the

VT. But no longer. The VT on 15 January was officially given a new name that is nearly as complex as

## India's renaming game spells end of line for Raj

Chehatrapati Shivaji Railway Terminus. Shivaji was a famous local warrior, a favourite of the Hindu alliance which now rules Mumbai.

VT is so embedded in the minds of Mumbai's inhabitants August, as "childish gimmickry". may come and go before they respond to Chehatrapati Shivaji Railway Terminus with anything but gaping stares.

It is not just the right-wing Hindus who are sweeping away the last remains of the British empire in the hope of electoral gains. The ruling Congress party, too, is playing the game. In the capital, New Delhi, the commercial hub of Connaught Place is now called Rajiv and Indira Chowk. It was an unpop-ular move. Jeering Delhi-

Cameron's description - the wallahs reminded the Congress party sycophants that Connaught Place is a circus and that chowk in Hindi means a square. Khuswant Singh, a well-known Delhi author and historian, dismissed the change, made last

The Delhi Lt Governor, Jagtaxi and auto-rickshaw drivers mohan, said: "Renaming a shopping centre after Indira Gandhi and Rajiv is a stupidity. It shows our increasing shallowness. The Duke of Conn aught, after whom the place is named, was - unlike the other British - very sympathetic to-wards India." The Gandhis already have their name plastered over 100 memorials, airports, buildings, and streets. As Ram esh Batra, one outraged defender of the old Connaught Place name, said: "What are we

going to tell our children? That

Then how did the English language come here - from the

A historian, KM Shrimali, remarked in the Sunday Times of India that this effacing of India's colonial past was "a perverted attempt to distort history". He added: "It's no different from the rewriting of history by communal and obscurantist forces. By renaming Connaught Place, you cannot obliterate the fact

that the British ruled us." After independence from Britain in 1947, all the blatant symbols of the British Raj were removed. In New Delhi, the statue of King George V was uprooted from India Gate, and boulevards with such as Kines way and Queensway became Rajpath and Janpath. All the other statues of British some-

bodies were carted away to a kind of graveyard outside Delhi: the spot where in 1903 Lord Curzon held a magnificent cer-emony with "562 bejewelled Maharajahs and their retinues, elephants and 300,000 cheering people" to commemorate the crowning of Edward VII.

Today it is a barren plot of thorns, flooded and pestilential during the monsoon, with statcrumbling off their pedestals. Thieves stole the marble crown and hands off Queen Victoria; the remaining bits were saved by art students.

radio advertising campaign from which there is no escape. the publisher Steve Forbes is out to prove that in New Hampshire as everywhere else, money is king. And no longer does the state have a virtual monopoly of the early primary season.

Unfettered by spending limits imposed on his rivals, who rely on outside contributions, Mr Forbes has poured \$12m (£8m) to \$15m of a personal fortune estimated at \$450m into his quest for the nomination, most of it on television in the early

unremarkable New England primary states.

And this is no bland promotion. The Forbes media effort state has been a ritual part of American history. In New Hampshire Eugene McCarthy drove Lyndon Johnson from the consists of a relentless on-White House, Democratic front-runner Ed Muskie self-deslaught of negative advertisements targeted at Mr Dole and structed in 1972. Gary Hart his alleged U-turns on tax polmade his name in 1984 and Bob icy. Of his opponents, only Dole crashed in 1988. The last Lamar Alexander comes close time around a Republican into Mr Forbes in television surgent called Pat Buchanan spending in New Hampshire, with \$550,000. caused what would be fatal Mr Forbes has acquired 17 trouble for an incumbent

per cent of the New Hampshire vote, according to polls, behind Mr Dole with 37 per cent, but clear of Mr Buchanan, Senator queues at shopping malls, burst Phil Gramm of Texas and Mr Alexander. The only poil which matters, of course, is on 20 February. But if Mr Forbes can get out the vote with advertising alone, he will have driven a stake not through the heart of the federal tax code, as he promises, but through the mys-

tique of the New Hampshire

Not least of the factors keeping that mystique alive is the press, delighting in a cosy primary just a short hop from the big media centres of Washington and New York. But, jealous of the attention, other states are beginning to chip away at the traditional role of New Hampshire and Iowa as gatekeepers

of the presidential race. The first major caucuses of the season will be not in Iowa on 12 February, but in Louisiana six days before. After wrangling that almost fin-ished in the courts, New Hampshire will still hold the kick-off primary - but no longer a week before the rest, as state law dictates. Delaware votes just four days later; Arizona, worth 39 convention delegates to New Hampshire's 16, holds its primary on 27 February. Small wonder that some candidates are spending almost as much time in the crucial South and West as in a deeply Republican corner of New England which, once its primary is over, matters not a whit in the subsequent presidential contest.

Such is the endangered myth of New Hampshire. After Bill Clinton came second there in 1992, the shibboleth that a candidate could not be elected president without winning this primary was destroyed. Now the possibility emerges that he could win the White House without even campaigning

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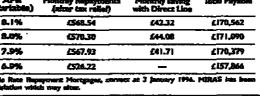
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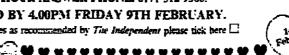
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## Japan's PM can only offer vague promises

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

The Diet yesterday convened what promises to be one of its tensest and most unpredictable parliamentary sessions for years, with a speech from the new Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, which promised an invigorated economy and an active foreign policy, but shied away from issues which will dominate the 150-day sitting.

Mr Hashimoto's election on 11 January, in place of the So-cialist, Tomiichi Murayama, marked the return to power of his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) after 19 months in the back seat of Japan's three-party coalition. It also signalled the start of serious electoral sparring between the LDP and the Shinshinto (New Frontier) party, the main opposition group, led by former conservative col-

leagues of Mr Hashimoto. The next election will be the first to be held under a reformed first-past-the-post system, intended to eliminate corruption and promote competition among the parties. As a side effect it is also likely to cost half of incumbent Diet members their seats. To add to the uncertainty, voter apathy is at an all-time high: for the last parliamentary elections, to the Diet's Upper House, turn-out was less than 50 per cent.

The election must be called by the middle of 1997, but the Shinshinto opposition, led by Mr Hashimoto's former col-league, Ichiro Ozawa, is noisily demanding an immediate poll, which many commentators expect as early as the spring. The quiet hysteria which this prospect is provoking will leave little room for the concerted development of policies outlined

yesterday by Mr Hashimoto. There are many changes that must be made, like it or not, in all aspects of society," he declared, "to cope with the collapse of Cold War structures, yesterday."

the borderless economy, Japan's enhanced global status, and other international changes." More than a year after the end of a painful recession, he promised full economic recovery by the end of 1996, and renewed deregulation, including a strengthening of the Fair Trade Commission, a notoriously toothless body in highly

regulated Japan.
None of this amounts to more than a restatement of previous government policies. On foreign affairs, he was content to ape the vague affirmations of his predecessor. "active initiatives" in international peace-keeping, and the "consolidation and reduction" of unpopular American bases on the sland of Okinawa. The part of his speech which

won most attention concerned a group of seven housing loan companies, whose prostration beneath a burden of bad debts has become the government's biggest policy headache. The companies, known as jusen, sowed the seeds of their own doom in the 1980s with a series of rash loans to companies many of them associated with gangsters, and LDP politicians. The government's decision to ball them out with 685ba yea (£4.3bn) of taxpayers' money has provoked fury and has been seized upon by Shinshinto as its principal weapon against Mr Hashimoto, who none the less reaffirmed his intention of pressing ahead with the plan.

But the opposition has its own Achilles heel in the form of Soka Gakkai, a Buddhist lay organisation which campaigns on Shinshinto's behalf. The millions of votes it can mobilise among its members represent a scrious threat to Mr Hashimoto. The LDP's efforts to capitalise on a growing public perception of Soka Gakkai as a sinister quasi-political force will demand far more of Mr Hashimoto's energy than the

Raymond Whitaker meets General Dostam far from the slaughter in Kabul, pursuing trade for his fiefdom Afghan man of war dons a business suit

The last time I had seen General Abdul Rashid Dostam was in April 1992 at Jabal os Sarrai, a town in Afghanistan where he had come to meet a fellow warlord, Ahmed Shah

They looked improbable allies then - the slight, bearded Mr Massoud, a somewhat austere Islamist who had spent more than a decade pursuing a holy war against the Communist regime in Kabul, and Gen Dostam, bull-like in appearance as well as, by all accounts, his pleasures. He had precipitated President Najibullah's downfall by switching sides to the muja-hedin, and had come through the Salang Pass with a column of armour to claim his reward. However menacing the reputation of the general and his wild Uzbek militia, it seemed a moment of hope for the monntainous nation.

Now, nearly four years later. Gen Dostam was in London, in the same week as Amnesty International described the period since April 1992 in Afghanistan as a "human rights catastrophe" of mass slaughter without end. Wearing an unfamiliar dark soit, he was seeking to encourage trade with his fiefdom in northern Afghanistan, particularly the possibil-

ity of gas exploration contracts. Reminded of the Jabal os Sarraj meeting, he agreed that it was unlikely to be repeated soon: he and Mr Massoud are now bitter enemies. "I lent him those armoured vehicles to get through to Kabul, because Gulbuddin Hekmatyar [Afghan-istan's most radical mujahedin leader] was blocking the way, but as soon as he was in the capital he forgot any agreements we had made," the general com-plained. "If they had been im-plemented, Kabul would not be in ruins now."

Others might argue that Kab-ul would have suffered more if Mr Massoud and his political chief, President Burhanuddin Rabbani, had not kept Gen Dostam's men at arm's length they are known as gelim jam (carpet-takers), according to the Amnesty report, because of their propensity for looting. On New Year's Day 1994 the

warlord changed sides again. He and Mr Hekmatyar, who had been bombarding the capital for months in an attempt to seize power, launched a combined assault on New Year's Day 1994 which levelled more areas of



Man on a mission: General Dostam, feared as a fighter in Afghanistan, in London to drum up business

Kabul and came within a couple of hundred yards of the presidential palace before Mr Massoud beat them back.

Since then Gen Dostam has kept mainly to his northern stronghold, based on Mazar e Sharif, the country's second largest city. He is reported to receive arms and money from his fellow Uzbeks in neighbouring Uzbekistan, has warplanes with which he occasionally bombs Kabul and is now even conducting his own foreign policy. He denies, however, that his movement "takes orders from others". Nor does he accept that his efforts to do deals on behalf of his part of the country could hasten the formal break-up of Afghanistan: "What we plan is for the good of the nation as a

whole - I don't think any true Afghan would be against it." Amnesty reports that Gen Dostam's followers attack undefended civilian targets, kill people out of hand and seize their possessions, commit rape and run unofficial detention centres where torture is routine. But so does every other faction in Afghanistan - despairing of persuading them to show any respect for human rights, the or-ganisation has called on outside powers to exert more pressure for a peace settlement and to cut

off the supply of arms. Among countries to have provided weapons since the majahedin takeover, Annesty names India, Iran, Libya, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, which is reported to have sent Iraqi equipment confiscated after the Gulf war.

Fighting has subsided into a bloody stalemate in the past few weeks, and the UN special envoy, Mahmoud Mestiri, believes he has made progress towards setting up an interim But even by the treacherous

council to take over power. A standards of Afghan power polgovernment spokesman said last week that Mr Rabbani was ready to step down if an agreed mechanism for the handover could be established. Gen Dostam said he was heading for talks in Pakistan that could endorse Mr Mestiri's efforts.

British diplomats dealing with the region met Gen Dostam last week. "Whatever one's views on him," said a source, "he is one of the main players in the country." And as the general himself pointed out, "People who called me unIslamic and a Communist, like Rabbani, now want to talk

With Afghanistan's most effective military force at his command - it was trained and equipped by the Soviet Union to serve as the former regime's shock troops - no peace deal can work without Gen Dostam.

fighting, except when it was forced on us. Then we had to itics, he is not widely trusted.

a Communist puppet see him as nothing but a mercenary. Holding court in his London hotel suite, the warlord complained of a "campaign of disinformation, and protested: selves Some people call it war-"We have never wanted any mongering - I demy that."

Those who do not harbour eth-

nic suspicions or consider him

Minimum

defend ourselves.

What about his sudden: changes of allegiance? "I brought down a hated Communist leader for the good of the country. The next time we were simply defending our-

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£25,000+	3.69%	3.75%	2.77%
£10,000	3,40%	3,45%	2:55%
£5,000	3,11%	3.15%	2.33%
£2,500	3.01%	3.05%	2.26%
£1,000	2.81%	2.85%	2.11%
		ed Account	· .
		Quarterly	
£1,000	6.70%	6.87%	5.03%
		e Yearly	· <del> :=-:</del>
£1,000	6.70%	<u> </u>	5.03%
- 50 000	2na issue 6.50%	Monthly 6.70%	4.88%
£1,000		e Yearly	4.00%
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£1,000	6.17%	6.35%	4.63%
1,000		e Yearly	05 76
£1,000	5.70%	- regily	4.28%
,,545_		Monthly	
£1,000	5.56%	5.70%	4.17%
		inked	
£1,200	5.25%		3,94%
	Ordinar	v Share	3-7/6
		<u>-</u>	
£1+	0.25%	0.25%	0 19%

0.25% your existing account is the best one for you. If so, please call into your local branch



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### Change to Interest Rates.

With effect from close of business on 22nd January 1996 the following Business Cheque and Deposit rates are applicable to the accounts set out below:

	Gross 10	QVO33
		CAR%
<u>usiness Interes</u>	t Cheque A	ccount
Instant Access	Cheque Accou	<u>nt</u>
50,000+	3.75	3.80

Rate per Annum\*

£100,000-249,999	3.50	3.55
£50,000-99,999	3.00	3.03
£10,000-49,999	2.75	2.78
£2,000-9,999	2.00	2.02
£1-1,999	1.50	1.51

#### Schools Banking Account

Capital Reserve Account\*\*

£250,000+	5.15	5.25
£100,000-249,999	5.00	5.09
£50,000-99,999	4.75	4.84
£10,000-49,999	4.25	4.32
£2,000-9,999	3-00	<b>3-03</b>

#### Practice Call Account

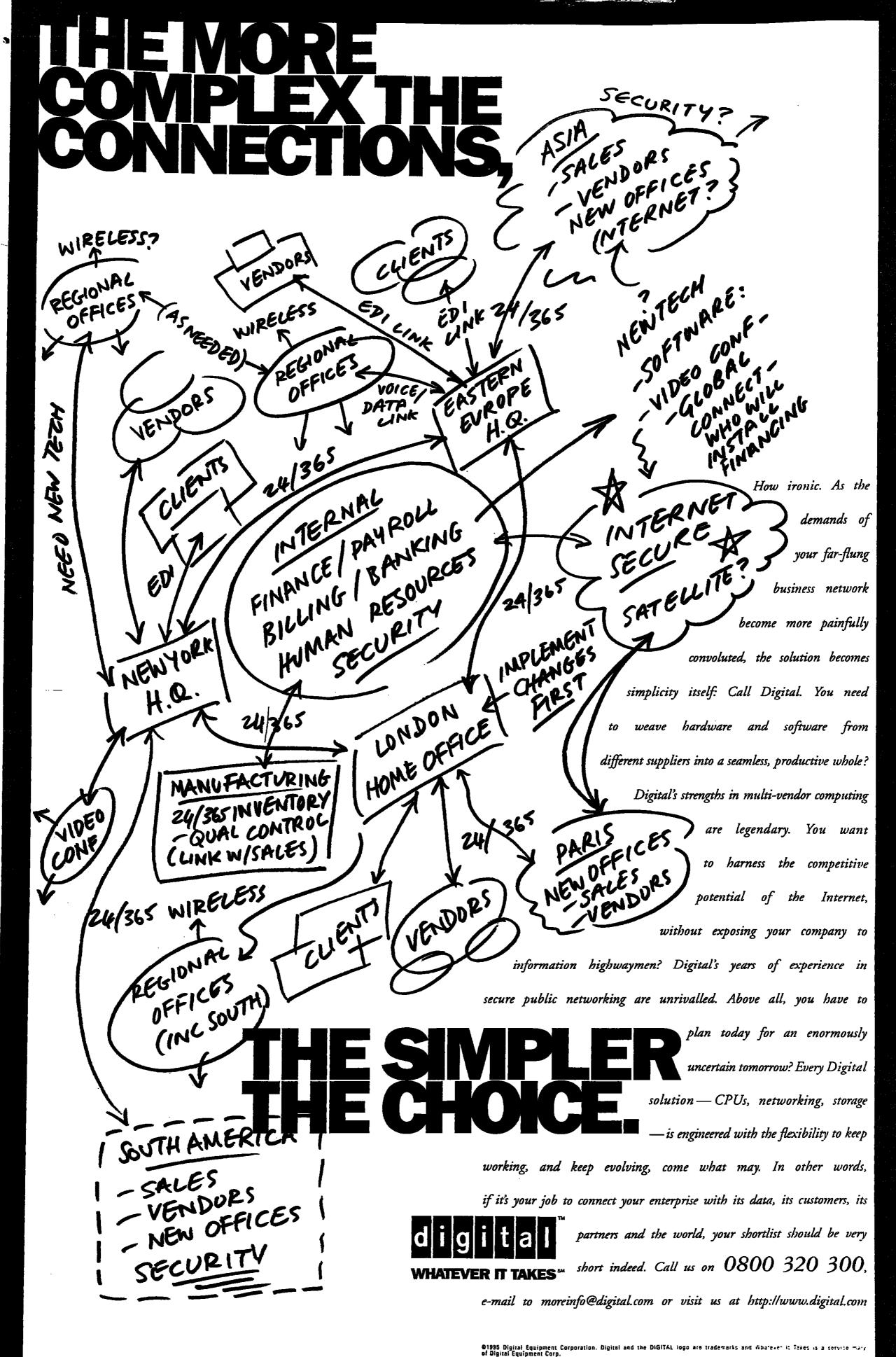
£1-1,999

I TOUTHE CALL PLACEMENT				
£100,000+	5.25	5.35		
£50,000-99,999	4.50	4.58		
£10,000-49,999	4.25	4.32		
£2,000-9,999	2.75	2.78		
£1-1,999	1-50	1.51		

Birmingham B1 1BZ

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## Don Simpson

Don Simpson and Jerry Bruck-heimer had a formula: high-tech flashy movies with loud bangs. louder music, car chases, car crashes and straight guys who dig other guys. The audiences responded. They didn't know a Simpson from a Goldwyn, but Hollywood did. Even so, Simp-son admitted, "People didn't re-ally like us." "In the Eighties it was cool at one point to be the ugliest, meanest, most selfish bastard in the world," said Christian Wagner, who edited Simpson's last film, Bad Boys.

Simpson himself claimed that he was "recruited by Warner Bros in 1971 as marketing executive specialising in [the] youth market" (he had been in the company's San Francisco sales office) - which was trans-lated by Julia Phillips in her 1991 memoir You'll Never Eas Lunch in This Town Again as "Don Simpson has made a name for himself being the hot, harmening young person on twinkly cheeks, even a twinkly happening young person on their staff; they count on him to relate in a meaningful fashion you can see it as an accouto films made by people under the age of 40."

It was the era when each studio was looking for its own Easy Rider. At Warners Simpson supervised the handling of Woodstock (1970) and A Clockwork Orange (1971). He also worked as a writer on Aloha, Bobby and Sue (1975), the story of a couple turning to crime while on the lam from the police, and Cannonball (1976), about a comic motor rally. Neither was very original, but neither cost a great girl's point of view.

deal of money. Simpson. "He hustled up ten- stopped for speeding, he denis games on the neighbourhood courts when he needed a Los Angeles police. Simpson quick buck," recorded Enter- and Bruckheimer came up with by Paramount, and in 1980 be- rected by Martin Brest, which

charge of production. The com-(1980), the first Abrahams/ Zucker spoof movie, and Urban Couboy (also 1980), which took John Travolta from the dancehalls of Saturday Night Fever to further his icon image in the modern West. Travolta had turned down American Gigolo to do it, which went to Richard Gere, who had a second big hit at Paramount with An Officer and a Gentleman (1982). This is a mixed batch of films, but it defined the then Paramount image as firmly as Hope and Crosby 40 years earlier: loud rock and a modern, gritty, anything-

goes America. It was in this climate that Simpson, unhappy behind a desk, formed a company with Jerry Bruckheimer to produce independently for the studio. Phillips had recalled Simpson as "a twinkly presence and a simibeard that is close-shaven, so trement, not a camouflage". Now she said, "It is hard to put this brusque, preoccupied, unhealthy-looking presence with good old twinkly-simian-I'm-a-triple-Scorpio Ach!

The twinkle returned when Flashdance (1983) took over \$36m in the US. Directed by Adrian Lyne, with Jennifer and contemptuous reviews re-Beals and Michael Nouri, it was sulted in an acrimonious end to basically Sanurday Night Fever re-done in Pittsburgh from the

When Michael Eisner, the It was not a good time for new head of Paramount, was manded a story centred on the tainment Weekly. He was rescued Beverly Hills Cop (1984), dicame senior vice-president in made a star of Eddie Murphy.

Paramount's investment of pany was on a roll with Airplane! \$14m saw a return in the US alone of \$108m. Beverly Hills Cop II (1987) cost \$28m and took \$80m. Meanwhile its director, Tony Scott, had had a gigantic hit with Top Gun (1986). another Simpson-Bruckheimer opus, about an officer and a gentleman, Tom Cruise, the sort who is free with four-letter words and wears thigh-hugging jeans. This was an \$82m earner - the highest of the year.

With Top Gun Cruise replaced Murphy as America's highest-paid star and most desirable male. Cruise starred in Days of Thunder (1990), directed by Scott, which was supposed to do for racing cars what Top Gun had done for MIG fighters. Stung by criticism that they made only mindless action epics with high bodycounts, the producers had hired the estimable Robert Towne for the script and Robert Duvall (who had just won an Oscar) to support Cruise. During the production Paramount signed Simpson and Bruckheimer to a new five-year deal, reputedly worth \$300m and described by the trade press as a "visionary alliance". But the film didn't have an easy shoot. Badly in need of a big summer movie Paramount threw an extra \$10m at it, to a total of around \$65m. A domestic take of only \$83m

the Paramount agreement. Eisner, who had moved to Disney, signed them to a non-exclusive deal, and then waited three years as they sifted through the 35 projects they had brought with them. The Ref (1994), was a Home Alone variant (burglar gets bested by his victims) which few liked.

Simpson's temper was as no-



Simpson: 'People didn't really like us'

stantly tempted to act in his own films). His sex life got a going-over in 1995 when the convicted madam Heidi Fleiss described him as "not just a customer but a close friend", and another tell-all book, You'll Never Make Love in This Town Again, featured a call-girl called Tiffany who described what it was like with him. His intake of substances was famous - it led to Bruckheimer's breaking off the partnership last year. Simpson engaged a Dr Stephen Ammerman to help him detox, but the good doctor himself died of an overdose at Simpson's Bel and Gene Hackman - took

body was found in his bathroom clutching a book and his glass-es, the police said he died of natural causes. "Don Simpson was fighting drug addiction but girding for new ventures," said the Los Angeles Times.

His last year was, in other ways, spectacular. Dangerous Minds, the most serious film he and Bruckheimer had attempted - Michelle Pfeiffer as a schoolteacher - was 12th at the US box-office with a take of over \$84m. Crimson Tide, another buddy-bonding action movie - Denzil Washington torious as his vanity (he was con- Air mansion. When Simpson's over \$91m. Disney had put Bad January 1996.

box-office successes.

David Shipman

Donald Simpson, film producer born Anchorage, Alaska 29 Oc-tober 1945; died Los Angeles 19

Boys on hold when Simpson and Bruckheimer wanted to cast two black actors. Sony - Columbia - badly needing a success, agreed to go with Martin Lawrence and Will Smith as Miami cops chasing drug dealers. And that - a rehash of Beverly Hills Cop, which Simpson him-self called "the same old dick love-story" - gave them three movies in the year's top 25

## **Antony Trew**

novels and a volume of short stories, was a modest man who rarely spoke of the war record which carned him the Distinguished Service Cross for commanding a South African Naval Forces whaler carrying supplies to Tobruk, and a Royal Navy destroyer, HMS Walker. principally employed in protecting Russian convoys in the Arctic.

His career as a writer of

naval adventures and thrillers began late, three years before his retirement from the Automobile Association of South Africa, of which he was Director-General, with the publication of Two Hours to Darkness in 1963. It was a best-seller, with 3.5 million copies in print in 16 languages. On the back of it he settled in Surrey, and steadily built a reputation as a fine story-teller whose work at its best recalls the tense cat-andmouse games of warship and U-boat, icy waters, human frailty. He writes simply and with authenticity, drawing on his own experiences at sea and in south-ern Africa, which he loved. Born in Pretoria in 1906,

Trew left school at 16 to go to sea as an officer cadet with the Union Castle Line. A commission in the South African Naval Service followed, from 1926 to 1929. During the Depression he took a series of civilian jobs, and in 1933 became the Transvaal Secretary of the fledgling Au-tomobile Association of South Africa, with a membership of a mere 6,000. When the call-up came at the outbreak of the Second World War he commanded various mine-sweeping and patrol vessels, then, from December 1940, served for a year as Lieutenant-Commander in the 22nd A/S Group, the first South African armed forces unit to enter the Mediterranean

theatre.

The next two years were spent in a staff job, overseeing the repair of naval vessels in Cape Town, after which, auxious to get back to sea, Trew asked to be seconded to the Royal Navy; after another spell in the Mediterranean he attended the Senior Officers' Staff Course at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich. Destroyer experi-ence on HMS Versatile led to his own ship, HMS Walker, based on the Clyde, which between October 1944 and May 1945 he commanded on four convoy missions and on escort duties to Iceland and the Western Approaches. From May to July 1945 he commanded the six-gun Bird class sloop HMS Cygnet. After the war he rejoined the Chertsey 12 January 1996.

Antony Trew, the author of 16 Automobile Association of and later Director-General. Membership had grown to more than 300,000 by the time of his retirement in 1966. I first met Antony Trew in

1987 at the offices of his publisher, Collins (now Harper-Collins), where as a new editor I inherited him from my overloaded boss, Marjory Chapman, and soon regarded han as a friend. His immaculate scripts arrived promptly and needed intle work; he was a craftsman, whose skill at building character, plot and dramatic suspense in novels such as Yashimoto's Last Dive (1986) had not dimmed with age.

Spry for his years, and endearingly courtly in his manners, Trew was lively company. Having spent some time in Mozambique (formerly Portuguese East Africa), he revealed a compassionate understanding of black Africa's problems, and described movingly his son



Autony's imprisonment for activities in the South African resistance. (He is now a civil servant in Nelson Mandela's private office.) His wife Nora was his lynchpin, and he spoke with pride of his other sons. Peter Conservative MP for Dartford, 1970-74) and Robert, an architect.

Part of Trew's charm was his good-humour, and he seemed wrily aware of his diminished status at Collins now that his book sales were in decline as fashions in thrillers changed. Lunching an author is the traditional way a publisher shows appreciation, but with Trew's wide-ranging sympathies and air of mischievous amusement the treat was invariably mine.

Jane Hill

Antony Francis Trew, naval officer and writer: born Pretoria, South Africa 5 June 1906; DSC 1945; married 1931 Nora Houthakker (three sons); died

Yisrael Eldad, political activist,

### The Chief Mufti of Tajikistan

Peter Stadlen

Webern.

Taiikistan's leading Muslim cler- district of southern Taiikistan. ic, the Chief Mufti Fatkhullo Sharifzoda, was assassinated on 21 January together with his while at the same time serving wife and two other relatives by unknown gunmen at his home in the Hissar region, west of the only 17 mosques for the entire capital Dushanbe. The assassination has been condemned by both the neo-Communist government and members of the Islamist/democratic opposition in this sharply polarised Central

in the village of Kizyl in Hissar reached the backwater of Tajik- months the leaders of the coali- clear his support for them and politics, while at the same time January 1996.

In the history of 20th-century

music, the name of Peter

Stadlen will always be associated

with Anton Webern's Varia-

tions for piano Op 27, of which

he gave the world premiere in

1937. Yet, by an irony of which

he was doubtless well aware,

it was his growing scepticism

over the musical tendencies

represented by that very work

which, 20 years later, was to lead

to the abandonment of his ca-

reer as a noted interpreter of

Stadlen trained as a conductor,

composer, even philosopher,

before completing his piano studies with Leonid Kreuzer in

Berlin. Indeed, at the Venice Bi-

ennale in 1937, he conducted a

performance of Schoenberg's

12-note Suite for septet Op 29

from the keyboard - a remark-

Born in Vienna in 1910,

contemporary music.

A father of seven, he worked as a manager in the water service as an unofficial, "parallel" mullah. The Soviet regime allowed republic, although some threequarters of the population was of Sunni Muslim origin. In 1989 Sharifzoda was able to give up work and devote himself fulltime to religion as mufti of the main mosque in Hissar.

able feat, for the piano part

itself is crammed with

in Austria, he sought refuge in

Britain - one of that brilliant

generation of Viennese immi-

grants, including Hans Keller

and three members of the fu-

ture Amadeus String Ouartet.

who were so to enrich the mu-

sical life of post-war Britain.

Stadlen took British citizen-

ship in 1946, but immediately re-

sumed his international career.

Temperaments to European au-

diences, running a master-class

in modern piano music at the

Darmstadt Summer School

Following the Nazi takeover

complexities.

istan, local mullahs broke away from the domination of the Muslim Spiritual Board based in Uzhekistan and elected their own Chief Mufti, Akbar Turaionzoda. He later allied himself strongly with the Islamic Renaissance Party which, together with the Democratic op-position, ousted the Communist regime in Dushanbe in 1992 to form a coalition government. But Communist supporters - wrong side. Even as the newwith Russian and Uzbek sup-communists were gaining port - fought back, and within eround. Sharifzoda had made

Yet, by this time, he was be-

ginning to worry whether the

chords produced by the 12-

note method, let alone by the

more rigorous post-Webernian

serialism coming into vogue,

created any audible harmonic

logic. Eventually, he concluded

they did not, publishing his findings in 1958 in William

Glock's music magazine the

Score in an article entitled "Se-

rialism Reconsidered". This

has been much quoted for its

vivid account of working with

Webern, but its suggestion that

the published score of the Op

27 Variations largely failed to

convey the expressive inten-

tions Webern privately insisted

upon drew down the ire of the

by then international serialist es-

tablishment. Ultimately, Stad-len was obliged to publish in

simile his own copy of the

tion, including Turajonzoda, were forced to flee. Tens of thousands of Tajiks were killed in the brotal civil war.

During the conflict, some muliahs supported the IRP although others, especially in Khodjent region in the north and Kulyab in the south, backed the old regime. A number of mullahs were killed in the fighting or executed for backing the

work, covered in Webern's ad-

ditional markings - a docu-

ment which is said to have

prompted Pierre Boulez, no

less, to reconsider his entire

interpretative approach to

Meanwhile, Stadlen contin-

opposition to attempts by some backing "the new governmen members of the IRP to install a pro-Islamic regime.

At a Muslim conference in Kulyab in May 1992, he was chosen to head a rival Muftiate to that of Turajonzoda. When the neo-Communists regained Dushanbe and Turajonzoda had fled to Afghanistan, Shar-ifzoda was installed by the new regime as Chief Multi in his place. Speaking just after his ap-pointment in February 1993, he born Keyl, Tajikistan 1942; marledged not to get inv

President Imomali Rahmonov in its continuing drive to suppress remnants of the Islamic

which has brought stability".

He remained a strong sup-

porter of the government of

and democratic opposition within Tajikistan. Fatkhullo Sharifzoda (Fatkhulla Sharipov), religious leader.

### 1965 to 1969 and a visiting fel- Reviewing is an exiguous activity, but, behind Stadlen's lapidary notices, one contined to sense an enquiring and dialec-tical mind. Which was doubtless

Stadien: musicai truth voted his life, no matter what the cost in controversy and doubt, to the discovering and

sustaining of musical truth.

Peter Stadlen, pianist, musicologist, critic: born Vienna 14 July 1910; married 1946 Hedi Simon (two sons); died London 21

died Jerusalem 22 January, aged 86. Extreme right-wing campaigner who advocated extending the state of Israel to cover areas controlled by the Jews in Biblical times. Founder in 1948 of the outlawed Homeland Front and fierce opponent of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process Arthur Getz, artist, died New

York 19 January 1996, aged 82. The most prolific cover artist for the New Yorker magazine; his depictions of New York life appeared on 210 issues between 1938 and 1988.

Sir Peter Shepherd, industrialist, died York 6 January, aged 79. Former chairman of Shepherd Building Group. Chair-man, Wool Industry Training Board 1964-74.

Mohammed Hamed Abul Nasr, religious leader, died 20 January, aged 82. Leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's largest Islamic group.

#### Births, **Marriages** & Deaths

#### BIRTHS

BIRCH: On 18 January, to Annabe (nee Luke) and David (William), o Chipping Campden, a son, Torran, brother to Anna and Giles. PAINTING: On 16 December 1995, to

Thomas Henry. SLAYTOR-VICE: Philippa Vice and John Slaytor are happy to amounce the birth of Millic, on 11 January 1996, in Sydney, Australia, Amelia Kate

#### DEATHS

HEWLINGS: Norman James Patrick. of Adderbuty, near Banbury. On Friday 19 January, aged 85 years. Fu-neral Service on Friday 26 January, 3pm, at 8t Mary's Church, Adderbury. Family flowers only please, but if de-sired donations for the Parkinson's Disease Society and RNLI, n/o J.M. Humphris, 32 Albert Street, Banbury OX16 8DG.

STADLEN: Peter, on 21 January, ages 85, peacefully in Hampstead, after a brief illness. Devoted and much-loved husband of Hedi, father of God-frey and Nicholas, and brother of Eric and Hami, grandfather of Matthew, William, Sun, Tommy, and Joshie, and special friend of Mundi. Muchloved uncle, brother-in-law, father-inlaw, great-uncle and friend, Pineral at Golders Green Crematorium, 2.30pm on Priday 26 January, Flow-ers to Kenyon's, 9 Pond Street, Lon-don NW3, 0171-794 3535.

Announcements for Gazette RIKI'HS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be telephoxed to 0171-293 2011 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at

#### introducing such important works as Schoenberg's Piano Concerto and Hindemith's Four

from 1947 to 1951, and in 1952 receiving the Austrian govern-ment's Schoenberg Medal.

Forthcoming

marriages

Mr S. E. Cowan and Miss C. Turpie The engagement is announced between Stephen Edward, eldest son of Ted and Brenda Cowan, of Greet, Gloucestershire, and Clare, daughter of Leonard and Deirdre Turpie.

#### Birthdays

Dame Mary Arden. High Court judge, 49; Lord Denning, former Master of the Rolls, 97; Mrs Gillian duCharme, Headmistress, Benenden School, 58; Air Marshal Sir Barry Durbury, director and chief executive, Society of British Aerospace Companies, 62; Sir John Grenside, chartered accountant, 75; Brigadier Donald Hardie, Lord-Lieutenant, Strathclyde Region (Dumbarton), 60; Mr Bill Hayden, Governor-General of Australia, 63; Sir Harold Hood Bt, former circulation director, the Catholic Herald, 80; Mr Thomas Hudson, former chairman, ICL Ltd. 81; Sir James Lighthill, former Provost, University College, London. 72; Miss Jeanne Moreau, actress, 68; Miss Christine Nicholls, Editor, Dictionary of National Biography Sup-plements, 53; Mr Bob Paisley, former iootball manager, 77; Mr Edward Rowlands MP, 56; Sir Kenneth Scott, Deputy Private Secretary to the

### Chief Constable, Dorset, 60.

Anniversaries Births: Stendhal (Henri-Marie Beyle), novelist, 1783; Edouard

Queen, 65; Lord Strathcarron, mo-

torist and author, 72; Lord Suther-

land, a Senator of the College of

Justice in Scotland, 64; Mrs Joan Walley MP, 47; Mr Brian Weight, former

Manet, painter, 1832; Subbas Chandra Bose, politician, 1897. Deaths: William Baffin, explorer, 1622; William Pitt the Younger, statesman, 1806; John Field, pianist and composer, 1837; Charles Kingsley, poet and novelist, 1875; William White-ley, "The Universal Provider", department-store owner, shot dead 1907; Anna Pavlova, balletina, 1931; Edvard Munch, painter, 1944; Sir Alexander Korda (Sandor Laszio Korda), film producer, 1956; Paul Bi Robeson, actor and singer, 1976. On this day: the Royal Exchange, Louthis day: the Royal Exchange, London, was opened by Queen Elizabeth I, 1571; Fletcher Christian and the Bounty mutineers landed on Fitcairn Island, 1790; the first Labour government was formed, under Ram-say MacDonald, 1924; the proceedings of the House of Lords were televised for the first time, 1985. To-day is the Feast Day of St Asclas, St Bernard of Vienne, Saints Clement and Agathangelus, St Emerentiana, St Ildephonsus, St John the Almsgiver, St Lufthildis and St

Lectures National Gallery: Kathleen Adler, Drawings (iv): Degas, After the Bath", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Jean Schofield, "The Chair (iii)", 230pm. British Museum: George Hart, "Hathor and the Rage of Sakhmet",

National Portrait Gallery: Wendy Nelson-Cave, "Shakespeare's Patrons", 1.10pm.

Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution, London N6: Lyndali Gordon, "Hidden Lives, Shared Lives – the frontiers of biography", 7.45pm. Leicester University: Professor M. Stammard, "A Matter of Life and Death", 5.15pm.

ued his anti-serial campaign for several years; I recall a charismatic lecture to the Oxford University Contemporary Music Club in the early 1960s. Today, the consensus would probably be that he was more right than wrong, though it has to be added that the argument. both pro and contra, was conducted on a far higher level circa 1960 than such controversies tend to be now. In any case, having given up

performance, Stadlen turned to musicology, holding a lectureship at Reading University from

RIBA Architecture Centre, London W1: Ken Yeang, "The Skyscraper: bioclimatically considered", 6.30pm.

University College London, London WC1: Professor Authory H.

Dickenson, "Pains, Brains and Opi-um", 5.30pm.

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Sir Denis Dobson KCB

OBE OC will be held in the Temple

Church, London EC4, on Monday 12

Royal Over-Seas League

Mr William Gibbons, Director, Pas-

wantan Choons, Drector, Passenger Shipping Association Ltd.
was the guest speaker at the opening meeting of the Winter Session of
the Discussion Circle held yesterday

evening at Over-Seas House, Si

James's, London SW1. His subject

was "The UK-based Ferry Industry

Today and Tomorrow". Mrs Elizabeth Cresswell presided.

Mr Michael Foot, Deputy Chairman.

the Byron Society, was the speaker at a meeting of the society held yes-terday evening in the Royal Institu-tion of Great Britain, London Wi.

He spoke on "Women's Influence on

Lord Byron". Fran Brigitte Lohmar, Joint International Secretary, was in

Printess Alexandra opens the new Calopeper Stop, Windsor, Bedshire: and an President, unests Forts Heatings hand-rakers for the Imperial Cancer Research Fund at the Castle Hotel, Windsor, Berkshire.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Changing of the Guard

Byron Society

Sir Denis Dobson

February 1996, at 5pm.

Oxford, in 1967-68. He made a substantial contribution to the never-ending debate about Beethoven's tempo markings and was the first to discover the extent to which Beethoven's factotum, Anton Schindler, had forged entries in the conversation books Beethoven kept in the years of his deafness. But Stadlen also published on continuity in Mozart, Schoenberg's use of speech-song, and other topics. It is odd that his papers have never been collected. They would make a distinguished

lowship at All Souls College,

At the same time, he was building a career in broadcasting and journalism. In 1959, he joined the Daily Telegraph as music critic, succeeding Martin Cooper as chief critic in 1977.

Regina v Latif; R v Shahzad;

18 January 1996

menting his often quizzical bemusement at some latest avant-garde enormity or populist cop-out. Three weeks ago, during a concert of late medieval rarities. we talked of recent research on Charles Ives. Stadlen seemed frailer, but retained as ever the aura of a musician who had de-

why he and his wife Hedi,

with whom he enjoyed an in-

separable union for over 50

years, continued to attend con-

certs and operas as avidly as

ever after his retirement in

1986. To converse with them

during an interval was always a

cultural pleasure; her poise and

warmth so perfectly comple-

## Trial for drug offences not an abuse of process

House of Lords (Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Mustill, Lord Stevn, Lord Hoffmann's

A trial judge would stay criminal proceedings if, weighing countervailing considerations of policy and justice, he concluded in the exercise of his discretion a fair trial was not possible or there had been an abuse of process which amounted to an affront to the public conscience.

The House of Lords unanimously dismissed appeals by the appellants against their convictions of being knowingly concerned in the fraudulent evasion of the prohibition on the importation of a controlled drug, contrary to section 170(2) of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979.

The appellant Shahzad approached H, a shopkeeper in Lahore, Pakistan who was a paid informer employed by the United States Drugs Enforcement Agency, and proposed an export of 20 kilograms of heroin valued at £3.2m to the United Kingdom. They agreed that H would arrange a courier to carry it here. H would take delivery of it here and Shahzad would

collect it and distribute it.

#### LAW REPORT

23 January 1996

H gave the drugs he re-ceived from Shahzad in Lahore to a customs officer who brought them from Pakistan to England. H came to England and stayed in a hotel room under surveillance. When Shahzad arrived in England they discussed details of the delivery of the heroin and pay-ment. The appellant Latif ioined them. A man pretending to have possession of the heroin arrived. The appellants were arrested.

The appellants appealed against their convictions on the grounds that it was an abuse of process to institute criminal proceedings against them and that on the evidence they were not guilty of the offence under section 170(2). David Robson QC and Mohami Latif (Mian & Co) for Latif; Charles Bloom QC and Andrew Sharpe (Hird Killeen & Co, Birmingham) for Shahzad; Alan Moses QC and Seddon Cripps (Customs & Excise Solicitor) for the Crown.

Lord Steyn said that the starting-point when considering the issue of abuse of process was that entrapment was not a defence under English law. However Shahzad system. The law was settled.

would probably not have committed the particular offence but for the conduct of H and the customs officer, which included criminal conduct. This posed the perennial dilemma. If the courts always

refused to stay such proceedings, the perception would be that the court condoned criminal conduct and malpractice by law enforcement agencies. That would undermine public confidence in the criminal justice system and bring it into disrepute. On the other hand, if the courts were always to stay such proceedings, it would incur the reproach that it was failing to protect the public from

serious crime. The weaknesses of both extreme positions left only one principled solution. The court had a discretion: it had to perform a balancing exercise. If it concluded that a fair trial was not possible, it would stay the

In this case the issue was whether, despite the fact that a fair trial was possible, the judge ought to have stayed the criminal proceedings on the broader considerations of integrity of the criminal justice

Proceedings might be stayed not only where a fair trial was impossible but also where it would be contrary to the pubhe interest in the integrity of the criminal justice system that a trial should take place. In a case such as the present, the judge must weigh in the balance the public interest in ensuring that those charged with grave crimes should be tried and the competing public interest in not conveying the impression that the court would adopt that approach that the end justified the

In the present case the judge did not err in refusing to stay the proceedings.

It was argued there was no case to answer under section 170(2) since the importation was carried out by the customs officer who did not act in concert with Shahzad. However Shahzad was guilty of an attempt at evasion under section 170(2). There was one offence under section 170(2) which could be committed by evasion or an attempt at evasion. Shahzad had correctly been found guilty under section 170(2). The appellant Latif's role was also sufficient to constitute an offence under section 170(2). The appeals were dismissed.

Ying Hui Tan, Barrister

Antony Trew

With a nation about to be born in the Middle East, Patrick Cockburn looks at what's in store for Palestinians and Israelis

## Welcome to the promised land

### What it means for Palestine

After more than half a Acknowledged: "Israel's sensational victory of 1967 has become a curse." It know if the future holds an acknowledged: "Israel's sensational victory of 1967 has become a curse." It know if the future holds an acknowledged: "Israel's sensational victory of 1967 has become a curse." creating an independent state. In a few weeks, the newly elected Palestinian president, Yasser Arafat, will form a government largely drawn from the 88-member Palestine National Council chosen by Palestinian voters on Saturday. The battle that has convulsed the Middle East since Israel was created in 1948 may not be over, but in the past 10 weeks it has been transformed by three events: the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the cities of the West Bank and the Palestinian elections.

The new state is a strange jigsaw puzzle of competing authorities. Israeli troops are still camped outside the cities they once controlled. There are 135,000 Israeli settlers in the West Bank and Gaza. But Palestinians believe that the 28-year-long occupation by Israel is finally ending. That is why they voted for Mr Arafat and his political movement, Fatah, at the weekend. Israeli opponents of the Oslo peace accords admit that they will never reconquer the land

now being given up.
The withdrawal is a partial reversal of the results of the 1967 war, when Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem. Yet as Yossi Beilin, the Israeli minister who was one of the architects of the Oslo inflamed Palestinian nation-alism. Israel became Within a month Mr Arafat alism. Israel became absorbed in trying to crush Mr Arafat and the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Military victories, such as the invasion of Lebanon in 1982, brought it no nearer a political settlement. The intifada (uprising) in the West Bank and Gaza in 1987

Neither Israelis nor **Palestinians** know if the future holds an armed truce or

showed that resistance to Israel was growing.

a long peace

Will the emergence of a quasi-independent Palestinian state remove the curse? For the moment, the Palestinians are euphoric. Israeli opponents of withdrawal from the West Bank cannot protest too vigorously because this could be seen as approval for the 4 November assassination of Yitzhak Rabin. But the situation remains fluid. Negotiations on the future of Jerusalem, the settlements and the fronrecently piers of the two states have

will appoint a government,

20 of its members drawn from the Palestine National Council and five from outside it. Its powers will be restricted by agreements with Israel, but it is stronger than it appears. Formally, it is not allowed to conduct foreign policy, but hardly a week goes by when Mr Arafat is not receiving a foreign leader in Gaza. The new state has no army, but its large police force consists of soldiers with submachine guns in camouflage uniforms.

Critics of the Oslo agreement say the Israelis can at any moment seal off parts of the fragmented territory under Mr Arafat's control. Israeli troops still have the right to enter villages on the West Bank, where two-thirds of Palestinians live.

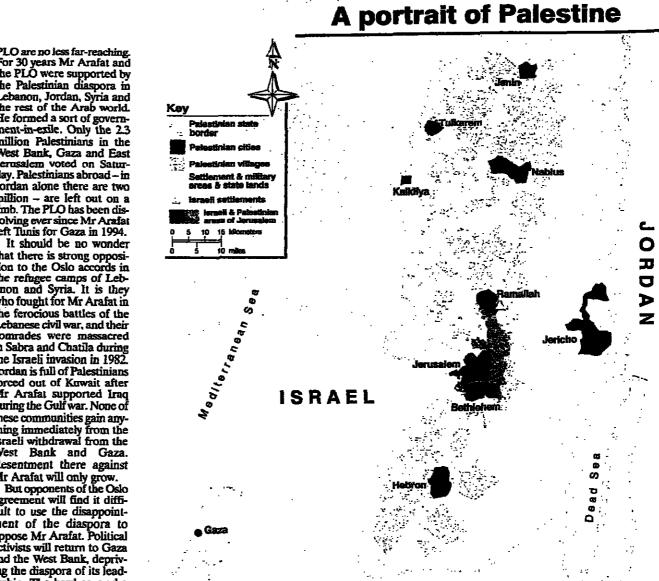
Yet in reality this is sooner said than done. During the intifada, Israel had difficulty enough controlling the West Bank and Gaza, even when it poured in troops and was in charge of the cities.

The ponderous 314-page peace agreement signed by Mr Rabin and Mr Arafat in September appears to have been written to confuse. But the Israeli right's analysis was correct: it is a more radical document than it looks - Israel is withdrawing from the West Bank.

PLO are no less far-reaching. For 30 years Mr Arafat and the PLO were supported by the Palestinian diaspora in Lebanon, Jordan, Syria and the rest of the Arab world. He formed a sort of government-in-exile. Only the 2.3 million Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem voted on Saturday. Palestinians abroad - in Jordan alone there are two million - are left out on a limb. The PLO has been dis solving ever since Mr Arafat left Tunis for Gaza in 1994.

that there is strong opposition to the Oslo accords in the refugee camps of Leb-anon and Syria. It is they who fought for Mr Arafat in the ferocious battles of the Lebanese civil war, and their comrades were massacred in Sabra and Chatila during the Israeli invasion in 1982. Jordan is full of Palestinians forced out of Kuwait after Mr Arafat supported Iraq during the Gulf war. None of these communities gain anything immediately from the Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza. Resentment there against Mr Arafat will only grow.
But opponents of the Oslo

agreement will find it difficult to use the disappointment of the diaspora to oppose Mr Arafat. Political activists will return to Gaza and the West Bank, depriving the diaspora of its leadership. The hard core who remain in Damascus will be



Inemployment in Gaza Strip and West

The Disenora

The Peace Force

#### What it means for Israel

The assassination of Yitz- to pack their bags. But the the sympathy and support of support of settlers. Now he is hak Rabin still domi- settlements originally had the mainstream right. They distancing himself from nates Israeli politics. The bullets that Yigal Amir fired into his back after a peace rally in Tel Aviv were the culmination of opposition to the peace process. They were forces withdrew in Decemday, was a tepid affair, focusing more on the defence of Jerusalem. It implicitly recognised that the battle for

the West Bank is lost. This does not mean that

more ambitious plans than are not getting it. survival. They were to be the vanguard of Israeli annexation of the West Bank, which also its nemesis. As Israeli Pilgrim Fathers sailing to New England in the 17th

Israel to become. The dream ended with the death of Mr Rabin. The religious nationalists, who combine exclusive Judaism with the Israeli settlers are going territorial nationalism, need

cratic state that they wanted

Danny Hizmy, a religious settler in Hebron, lamented last week: "The assassinathey believed was given by tion of Rabin changed God to the Jews. Like the something in our people, especially in the settlements. Leaders of the right in Israel ber, the nationalist right century, the most extreme feel accused. They stopped could do nothing. Its first settlers believed that on the protesting. Today Peres can rally in Jerusalem since Mr West Bank they could build do anything he wants. To cities in three weeks is terrible."

> Bibi Netanyahu, the leader of Likud, the main rightwing party, had raised the political temperature in the the peace accords with the summer and had sought the Palestinians.

them. But it may be too late. He was badly damaged by Leah Rabin's refusal to shake hands with him because he set the stage for her husband's murder.

The right is not finished however. Surprisingly, Shimon Peres, Mr Rabin's successor, has focused on reaching peace with Syria by Heights. It is not a popular move with the Israeli public. Mr Netanyahu will try to fight the election planned for October on this issue, not on

#### The future of the peace process

The Oslo agreement of 1993 postponed until the end the most difficult problems: the future of Jerusalem, the settlements, and the Palestinian refugees. These last talks must start already been diluted. The future of Jerusalem by 4 May. They will not be easy.

THE GAZA STRIP

police and troops ensured that only about 30 per cent of Palestinians in East Jerusalem were able to vote. Hanan Ashrawi, the human rights activist, said: "The battle for Jerusalem has already begun." The Israeli position is that Jerusalem is and will remain the eternal and undivided capital of Israel. But by allowing

will be the bitterest issue in the talks.

**Settlements** 

The Palestinian election on Saturday was peaceful except in Jerusalem. Lines of Israeli the whole of the West Bank. They have lost done worst out of the Oslo deal. The polititheir ideological cutting edge. The official Israeli position is that the government supports the settlers' right to stay. However, privately, compromise is in the wings. About 70 per cent of the settlers live on only 11 per cent of the land of the West Bank. Israeli ministers believe that this land might be annexed

to Israel. The remainder would have to abandon the settlements or get used to living in Palestinian-dominated areas. The Palestinians want the settlers out altogether, but have no means to force them.

cally active and wealthier refugees may come back to where Mr Arafat rules. But Palestinian families that became refugees after the 1948 war will get nothing under the Oslo accords. They will not be allowed to return to their homes. The majority of the Palestinian diaspora will remain abroad and marginalised.



#### Stripped of originality

Lady Godiva thought she was being bold riding naked through the streets of Coventry in support of tax cuts for the poor. She had it easy. There were no ex-Conservative ministers around.

The former education minister John Butcher has been made patron of the International Godiva Award. Set up by Coventry Council, the award seeks to honour a contemporary female campaigner for

He has told the organisers he is becoming "bored" with the current fashion in such ceremonies and had one or two stip-ulations. His support was on the basis "that the Godiva award will not include a nominee who



Lady Godiva: Have a butcher's, John? No, thanks

has anything to do with Aids. multiculturalism, environmentalism, sexism and feminism". That would rule out the environmentalist modern-day Godiva who went starkers in

But come to that, it would rule out pretty well everybody.
"I was a bit shocked," says Victoria Charlton, the award's director. "He seems to be against the whole spirit of what the legend represents. Lady Godiva did something extraordinary and this is for a woman who has done something quite

in protest against the motor car.

Mr Butcher assures me he is being reasonable. "All I want is for the judges to be original and unconstrained by contemporary 'isms'. I would prefer an unsung heroine who has been

extraordinary."



HARRIET.

courageous and effective in an

endeavour that 90 per cent of the people would cheer." That rules out Conser-

#### Fistful of art?

Professor Anthony Jones has resigned as rector of the Royal College of Art for personal rea-Coventry Cathedral last week sons (his son is very ill). His departure is unlikely to be fol-lowed by a rush of applicants for the job. Morale at the place has remained low since the days of Sir Jocelyn Stevens, who sacked 17 professors. But already an mofficial list of runners and riders is being touted in the cor-

ridors of the RCA. One possible contender is said to be Piers Rodgers, the restless secretary of the Royal Academy. But the front-runner is likely to be Christopher Frayling, at present pro-rector at the college (a post I am assured is less prestigious than being a rector without the pro prefix).

Mr Frayling is the author of numerous scholastic works, including one on the film director Sergio Leone; and whatever his scholastic prowess, is destined to be remembered as the man who invented the phrase "Spaghetti Western."

#### **Insider tips**

TO A MAN OF MY TALENTS

IT'LL BE LIKE TAKING CANDY

If Harriet Harman is searching for a rejoinder to her critics in



Radice knows his enemy

the Labour Party, she could take a leaf out of the book of Labour's elder statesman, Giles Radice. When Radice was Labour's education spokesman in the early Eighties, he was frequently rounded on by party stalwarts fibing at him over the fact that he had gone to Eton. "Isn't it marvellous," Radice would whisper to them, "all that knowledge I have about the enemy. Now I can use it against them.

#### Change of play

Method acting is in full swing at rehearsals for The Changing Room, David Storey's classi play about rugby players preparing for a match. The cast of the revival which opens at the Duke of Yorks theatre next month have been ordered to attend training sessions with former England international Bev Risman. They have also been banned from watching

vision as they might prove

#### It lacks that serotonin beat

Listen, or rather don't, to Axis Mutatis, the new album by The Shamen. According to this month's edition of Wired, they have translated the information contained within the DNA of the S2 protein in the brain into musical notes.

S2 is the brain site for serotonin, the chemical whose effects Ecstasy is supposed to exploit. So when you hear the music, you are meant to feel energetic, confident, happy, etc - without any of the ghastly side-effects. I can tell them it

To compensate, I made musical notes out of the chemical information in valium .. and ended up with the greatest hits of Barbra Streisand,

#### Nordic nerds

The computer nerd is fast becoming an international phenomenon, linguistically speaking. I hear there is now a word for the computer nerd in Swedish: "Datanord". Sounds even more expressive than the Anglo-American version.



Eagle Eye

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**NEW INTEREST RATES** 

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MR ROLF, ARE YOU SURE TAKING ON THIS

JOS POPULARISING THE E.E.C IS NISE?

by Tony Reeve and Steve Way





## DEPENDENT

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## A vision for the centre-left

A realignment to turn the centre-left of British politics into a force that could rule for years and leave a lasting mark upon the way Britain is governed. That is the underlying agenda of Paddy Ash-down's speech last night and the delicate courtship with Labour leader Tony Blair.
The prospect of such a partnership emerging is alluring. Such an alliance could amount to the most important new force in British politics since the emergence of Thatcherism and the reconstitution of the Conservative right in the late 1970s.

Ashdown's ideas floated last night are far more ambitious than an electoral pact. He wants Labour and the Liberal Democrats to get together for two Parliaments, the time he thinks it would take to enact a radical programme of government including constitutional reform, the overhaul of the welfare state and modernisation of the education system. At its core would be proportional representation, a system of voting that would ensure the Liberal Democrats maintained a separate identity while working in alliance with Labour.

His model for this co-operative approach is Scotland, where the two parties have hammered out a system of devolved government, elected by proportional representation, that each will put to voters at the general election. If the two parties can agree north of the border. then why not also in the South?

This is a tempting vision for those tired of party bickering and impatient for change. Mr Ashdown is right that the huge programme of reform needed in Britain - of the House of Lords, the voting system and over-centralised government - cannot be achieved in one Parliament. It may be beyond a single party: constitutional change needs a broad consensus. That would be easier to construct

if the two parties were working in concert. And in response Tony Blair has at least cleared his throat, even if the two are yet to agree to share a songsheet. In a speech last summer Blair spoke of Labour's debt not only to Attlee and Bevan, but also to great Liberal reformers such as Lloyd George, Beveridge and Keynes. Mr Blair may yet need more practical help from the Liberal Democrat MPs to face down recal-

citrant traditionalists in his own ranks. However such an alliance will not work if it is a takcover. It needs to be an agreement between two parties with separate identities. Liberal values are only dimly understood and even less accepted within the modern Labour Party. Despite Mr Blair's impressive reforms it remains still the creature of the central state and too distrustful of individual initiative and enterprise. Labour is drawn to Singapore for ideas on welfare reform because it is impressed by the success of that state in transforming the economy. Liberals would be far more aware of the lack of individual civil and political rights that have been the casualties of that success.

We need a Liberal Democrat party that is to be a vocal advocate of its traditional values: a distrust of the central state and support for the local, pluralism and individual choice. These values are most deep rooted in Mr Ashdown's party, going back over a century to the Victorian electoral reform acts and support for devolution in Ireland. Paddy Ashdown is right to want to drag it away from protest and towards power. But he must be prepared to draw on the party's traditions and aim its radical guns at all those, including Labour, who might threaten his

## Taking extra care of children

getting sicker by the minute, is shunted from hospital to hospital, kept waiting for hours only to be denied lifesaving intensive care because there aren't enough beds. Such was the story of young Nicholas Geldard, who died before Christmas. And his was not an isolated case, according to the Independent's survey of paediatric intensive care units this week. Top hospitals across the country have turned away scores of children from specialist units because they could not cope.

This is not a new problem. As far back as 1987, the death of baby David Barber of heart failure after being shuttled from one hospital to another set people talking about a crisis in paediatric intensive care. And in 1993, a report from the British Paediatric Association pointed out that critically ill children were being turned away from the units that could have given them most specialist help.

Behind these cases are family tragedies. But we should be wary of hysteria. Paediatric intensive care is a victim of its own success. Virtually unknown as a discipline 20 years ago, it has proved an extremely effective area of medicine. Advances in medical knowledge, technology and a sustained focus on child health have made it possible to keep children alive who not long ago would have quickly died. And as usual with health care, supply has created its own demand. As the range of treatments has expanded so more people have come to expect the NHS to deliver them. There is a "crisis" in paediatric intensive care because hospital managers

It is every parent's nightmare. A sick—and resources have not kept pace with the

demand for new freatments Paediatric intensive care needs to expand. Now that we have the extra knowledge and the new techniques we are morally obliged to use them. On the Health Secretary Stephen Dorrell's own proposals to employ more evidence-based medicine - funding procedures which have proven results - this one's a winner.

Of course, extra resources for expanding paediatric care and training additional nurses mean something else has to give. A child dying in an ambulance when the technique to save her life is readily available must be of greater priority than cutting waiting lists for routine operations. The Government and health authorities should make sure resources are shifted towards this field with more funding for specialist centres of excellence and greater investment in nurse training. One of the biggest problems is the lack of trained staff. Incentives to help nurses to study for the extra paediatric qualification should be

Sadly, the Government has been slow to respond. The Department of Health is delaying formulating a detailed plan for the future of children's intensive care until it sees the outcome of a long term study by the Medical Research Council. This is wasting time. The Government remains politically vulnerable on its health policy. Another case like Nicholas Geldard's and it will regret, as only politicians can, how long it has taken to give children the best care we can afford.



### - LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

### Western approaches to Chechnya's claims

From Mr Richard Clogg Sir: To justify Russian colonial rule in Chechnya and to endorse without qualification Stalin's categorisation of the Chechens as a traitor nation" is indeed to display the independence of thought on which your newspaper prides itself (leading article, 18 January).

You state that "law" is not on the side of the Chechens. But whenever have independence movements been on the right side of the law? The French not only colonised but unilaterally declared Algeria to be an integral part of France. Would you really have sought to argue that the Algerian independence movement lacked legitimacy because it contravened French and international law?

You say that no encouragement should be given to the break-up of federations. You may untary (in their inception, at least) federations such as Yugoslavia. But the Chechens never willingly accepted incorporation into the Russian Federation, any more than they voluntarily accepted incorporation into the Soviet Union or, indeed, absorption into

the Tsarist Empire. It took the Russians many decades to subdue the Caucasus in the 18th and 19th centuries. If

Greenwich 2000

Sir: The choice between Green-

wich and Birmingham as the

main site for Britain's Millen-

nium Exhibition symbolises a

national dilemma. Are we an

outward-looking nation, deter-

mining our priorities in relation

to what is going in the world

around us. Or have we forsaken

that glorious past and become

inward-looking, concerned only

about what takes place in these

Greenwich symbolises the out-ward-looking. Here is the world centre of time - GMT - from

which time is calculated all

around the world. Here is also sit-

uated the 0 degree meridian. A PETER PRICE

great exhibition at Greenwich Chislehurst, Kent

From Mr Peter Price

Russia persists in its current bru- of the Chechen mafia through tal and obdurate policies, then I fear we may be on the verge of another Great Caucasian War.

In the 1920s a Chechen imam, who was one of the leaders in the struggle against the imposition of Soviet power, famously declared that he was knitting a rope with which to hang engineers, students and all those who wrote from left to right. In the 1990s the West, in doing virtually nothing to restrain Yeltsin's genocidal war against Muslims in Chechnya, is stoking the very fires of the Islamic fundamentalists that it professes to be so concerned

Yours sincerely, RICHARD CLOGG St Antony's College 18 January The writer is sometime Professor

University of Landon. From Dr R. Bennett Sir: There are several points aris-

ing from your editorial "Chechnya is not the West's cause" that need addressing. The equating of the Chechen leadership with 'gangsterism and corruption" is to vastly oversimplify things. It also ignores the role the former USSR played in fuelling the rise

could attract visitors from all

over the world. It is the only place

where the whole world could cel-

Birmingham, on the other

inward-looking fashion. There is

Japanese visitor, or even a Ger-

man, French or other citizen of

our own continent, to come to

Birmingham. They will have their

own national exhibitions and

events. Located there, our great

exhibition would be no more

The choice is fundamental

The dithering shows how uncer-tain we British have become

about our place in the world.

than a national event.

Yours faithfully,

ebrate the Millennium

their economic blockade of Chechnya since 1991. Secondly, there is no evidence that the Chechens supported Hitler's Wehrmacht, except in the narrow sense of wanting to be free of the yoke of Stalinism

Until now the West's main concern has been to support Yeltsin as the guarantor of Russian stability and the preservation of its infant democracy. But with his increasingly eccentric leadership, and the likelihood of his defeat in the presidential elections, the West needs to reassess its response to the events of Chechnya. This must encompass not only its relationship with Moscow but also its relationships with the republics in the Caucasus and Asia. Both of these will be of increasing strategic importance through oil produc-

Furthermore, if the West wants to champion democracy and freedom, it must recognise that the ethnic minorities within the former USSR share these rights with ethnic Russians and that their fears and aspirations must he respected. Yours faithfully.

R. BENNETT Newcastle upon Tyne 18 January

#### Scottish question

From Mr Stuart G. Boyce Sir. On Monday, Michael Forsyth the Secretary of State for Scothand, symbolises the latest land, held the first Scottish question time outside of Westminster, choosing New Parliament House no reason for any American or in Edinburgh ("Scotland hosts question time", 16 January).

The Tory, Liberal Democrat and Scottish National Party contingencies were out in force, yet less than half of the 49 Scottish Labour MPs bothered to attend and question the Secretary of State, despite having to travel a far shorter distance than usual to represent their constituents. Where were they - possibly at Westminster, taking part in New Labour's pandering to "Middle England"

It would appear that the real "question" to be asked after this appalling display in the building in which Labour is planning to house its proposed assembly is, Just how committed to democracy in Scotland is the Labour Party?".

Yours sincerely, STUART G. BOYCE Vice-Convener of Publicity Young Scottish Nationalists Edinburgh 17 January

### Sharp practice

From Mr Tim Weston Sir: It seems that the police are to melt down many hand-crafted, even antique blades in the name of "keeping knives off the streets". Can't they get a knife expert to look over them and donate worthy ones to the British Museum (for example); they could even sell them at auction, with reserve prices to keep out non-collectors, thus gaining some useful police funds.

Yours faithfully. TIM WESSON Cambridge 21 January

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@ independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

### Labour's selective principles

From Mrs Andrea Coleman Sir. The Independent has come down heavily and certainly on the "side" of Harriet Harman (leading article, 22 January) because you feel that whatever the policies or outlook of a party, the children of the leaders of that party should not be adversely affected by those policies or that

But you have missed the point. To believe, as I do, in the benefits of non-selective education is to believe that those benefits will be available for all our children and that this will ultimately be to the advantage of a better educated and more competitive nation. Non-selectivity is nonnegotiable. That means that if we believe in it, we send our children to non-selective state schools and we do whatever we can to make sure that their education is a sucelse in the school. That is why I

am a school governor. Many of us could send our children elsewhere, but we do not. This is called acting on a principle and it something that was once observable in the Labour Party. The all-too-obvious point about a principle is that acting upon it may call for a little inconvenience and - worse - it may affect other people.

I am almost 50. I have supported the Labour Party through all its weaknesses and all its pathetic failures. But this is the end of that support. Yours faithfully,

Andrea Coleman Norton, Northamptonshire 22 January

From Ms Andrea Jones

Sir. In your leading article "Harman gets her priorities right", you imply that many Labour politicians will feel cheated that they sent their children to comprehensive schools now that Harriet Harman has chosen a grammar school. This implies that choosing a comprehensive school is

second best. In the borough of Trafford (where I live, and am a local Labout councillor and which has grammar schools), a number of Labour councillors have chosen to send their children to comprehensive schools in neigh-bouring authorities, irrespective of whether their children passed the 11-plus or not. in my own case, my son did pass the 11-plus. However, I believe that comprehensive schools are better. In sending him to a comprehensive best for him.

Yours sincerely, ANDREA JONES Old Trafford, Manchester 22 January

From Mr Jon Gray Sir. How is St Ólave's able to maintain such excellent education while other schools rot? I understand that it is a most congenial place with first-class facilities, and yet it does not charge fees. Does this mean that it is funded in the same way as other state schools? I wonder if my local state schools are hadly managed. They look so shabby. Sincerely, JON GRAY

#### Changing social order in Europe

From Mr Richard Nobbs Sir. Andrew Marr ("The rise of do-it-yourself democracy", 18 January) touches upon a phenomenon that is likely to become one of the defining elements of the society to which we are moving: the gathering importance of "the web of social relationships below the level of the state". It is clear there is an increasingly important role played by voluntary associations in the widest sense of the term, including the social partners and professional associations, in giving voice to the interests of their members in the midst of the many structural

changes taking place. If one accepts the thesis that economic performance is inextricably linked with social performance, then it is vital that the voice of the ever-increasing number of

non-governmental organisations is heard in policy-making circles. We will not be successful in Europe in our job creation efforts if we cannot carry people with us. Flexible labour markets, new work patterns, new roles for women in work, institutionalised part-time work, whatever the approaches that are favoured, all require

Marksbury, Avon

adjustments in our social patterns. This has long been recognised within the Commission of the European Union, and on March 28-30 Commissioner Padraig Flyan will be hosting a European social policy forum here in Brussels where we will be welcoming representatives of all such organisations from all over the European Union precisely in order to hear their views on the new order.

RICHARD NOBBS Commission of the European Communities -Brussels

19 January

Nottingham

22 Jannuary

Dorking, Surrey

#### Legal complaints

From Mr C. G. Burrows Sir. In his letter of 20 January, Martin O'Reilly, acting director of the Solicitors Complaints Bureau, takes you to task for your editorial "When lawyers let us down" (17 January) following the Law Society survey on the handling of complaints against solicitors. Mr O'Reilly states that, The results refer to matters investigated between 18 and 24 months ago".

inception in 1986, the Solicitors Complaints Bureau has been the subject of criticism from various bodies, including the Royal Com-mission on Legal Services and the National Consumer Council? The problem is one of long standing, and not merely due to a temporary aberration on the part of the bureau. Yours faithfully, C. G. BURROWS

Is he not aware that, since its

#### SFO alternative

From Mr Geoff Saunders Sir: To prevent the perpetration of further serious fraud on the people of this country by the Seri-ous Fraud Office, I propose that we replace it with an agency to distribute a reasonable sum of money, say £1m, to anyone who

is charged with serious fraud. Just think of the money we would save in legal aid and legal fees. I myself would be prepared to run such an agency on a part-time basis, for a percentage of the money saved Yours faithfully, GEOFF SAUNDERS

#### The Welsh love it, they just can't do it There was a well-orchestrated shot at singing at the World Cup Final, because opera is an Italian groan of protest in Wales when

Virginia Bottomley and her merry heritage henchmen said they weren't giving any money for a new opera house in Cardiff. We cannot live without a national opera house, said the Welsh, or some of them. No, no, what we desperately need is a new national rugby stadium, said other Welsh voices.

It is very odd to find the Welsh living up to their own stereotype of rugby-playing and singing obses-sives. The image of the Welsh has changed over the years, of course. In the old days it would involve a dash of religion, an inability to speak English and an ability to teach and to deliver dairy products. I don't know why it was true, historically, that most of the dairying in London was done by people called Jones and Davies, Williams and Price, but so it was. And back in George Borrow's days, in the last century, you could walk for hours in wild Wales and not meet anyone who spoke English. What would be find today? A nation unable to decide whether it should have a rugby stadium or an opera house. and discussing it heatedly in English in every public bar?



#### MILES KINGTON

Rugby and opera. Opera and rugby. A strange pair for a nation to be associated with. The strange thing is that despite the stereotypes, the Welsh aren't very good at either. Not at the moment, anyway. There have been long stretches when they were good at rugby, but younger people will not remember those times. They only just managed to beat Italy the other day, 31-26. At rugby! Nor are the Weish very good at opera. Well, they are quite good at putting on opera, witness the Welsh National Opera. and they turn out some good singers from time to time, but they don't write any good opera, at least not good enough to get in the standard repertoire, and they don't have anyone good enough to put his arms round Pavarotti and get a game, and the Weish can't get within 31-26 of the Italians at

There is a school of thought that would advise the Welsh not even to try to be any good at opera. I think David Hare would be among them. The eminent playwright was asked on Radio 3, this last weekend, what he thought of opera. The interviewer no doubt assumed that Hare. like all cultured people, supported opera automatically. In fact, he said so. Presumably, said his interviewer, as a theatre person Hare was all for opera.

"Well, I used to dislike opera," said David Hare, choosing his words carefully, "but that was always from a position of considerable ignorance. Now that I know rather more about opera, I have come to hate it." Oh, dear. What had Hare got

against opera? Everything, said Hare. It is abominably slow and keeps grinding to a halt. The unfolding of the drama is terribly artificial and it is very difficult to make out the words, and the singers cannot act (the myth that modern opera singers have learnt to act is

just that, said Hare, a myth -singing and acting are two very dif-ferent techniques, which is also why so few actors can sing) and he didn't even like the noise it made very much, and he hated all the intervals and queueing at bars and such-like.

It was only when I heard Hare saying all this that I made the connection. Opera is not the only thing like that. There is something else. International rugby! Opera and rugby are virtually the same sport! In both of them, a lot of massed singing goes on in the background while very little happens in the foreground. Rugby, just like opera, is abominably slow and keeps stop-ping, and it's hard to make out what is happening, and most modern rugby players find it hard to master two different techniques such as running and catching a ball at the same time, and just when you think things are beginning to happen, a figure of authority (conductor or referee) brings things to a halt.

I believe that people also have to queue a lot at big rugby games to get a drink. I also hear on the grapevine that Jeremy Isaacs is being approached to take over Welsh rugby:

Harriet's done

us all a favour

Labour cannot go on hiding from

the reality of schools that fail our

## Voting reform is a winner for Blair

Paddy Ashdown's invitation to co-operate on political change will be hard for the centre-left to refuse

A lucky leader is one who is offered a chance to change the system. altering a nation's course, tampering with its destiny. A great leader is one who takes that chance. We already the takes that chance the lucky if he know that Tony Blair is lucky; if he makes it to Downing Street he has a chance of changing the voting system and thus the whole pattern of politics. Whether he will take it is now the most important policy question about

Conservatives who have pondered it are horrified, and understandably so. In yesterday's Daily Mail, an anonymous cabinet minister is quoted as warning: "People need to realise if that happened there would not be another Conservative government for 25

Quite. People do need to realise

The thought is provoked by Paddy Ashdown's speech last night, which was as strong an invitation to the Labour leader to sit down and talk about a political reformation as I have heard. On education, welfare reform, Europe, the environment and economics he laid out a series of principles with which Blair would agree. But he made it crystal clear that voting reform is part of the price for co-operation.

Assuming, as I do, that Blair is serious about his centre-left revival, and truly believes that the large majority of voters want a pro-market but welfarist Britain, tilted towards Europe, then he ought to be at least half-attracted to voting reform. If his politics are really the consensual centre ground, then a proportional system would entrench them, not undermine them. Blairism couldn't

Ashdown is offering him more than the short-term, jobs-for-the-lads deal of the Seventies. The Liberal Democrats' leader is suggesting long-term and secure parliamentary hacking for key policies, without necessarily requiring seats in the Cabinet or a formal coalition. His speech implies that he would also support a Labour government from the outside,

as a loyal opposition.

This is generous enough, I suspect. to cause Ashdown problems with some of his MPs. It would be particularly valuable to Labour if the party won only a small majority. Blair desperately needs that extra time and security if his ideas on stakeholding, greater investment, political reform and so on are to be implemented and

dug in enough to show some return.
As Ashdown put it: "What we have to build in Britain must be robust enough to survive for at least two parliaments and strong enough to carry a programme of fundamental reform against the power of the entrenched vested interests that will oppose it." Such a deal wouldn't be a distraction or a dilution for Labour's social policies. On most of them, the Lib Dems are already more radical. In some circumstances, it could be a precondition for Labour's

Other agenda. Blair must also have pondered the effect of voting reform on the British Union. The divergence in political mood of Scotland and England has been strongly accentuated not only by the Home Rule issue but also by the first-past-the-post system, which makes the English south look more Conservative than it is and Scotland more socialist

As Robin Cook has pointed out,



It is the sort of bold. imaginative stroke one can imagine

Disraeli delighting in

more people voted Labour in Kent at the last election than in Glasgow; and more voted Labour in the English south (excluding London) than in Scotland and Wales put together. This truth is hidden by the voting sys-tem; PR would make different parts of the country look more politically alike, and would hence have a unifying effect. For a Labour Party worried about the effect of Scottish Home Rule on its longer-term Scottish representation at Westminster, this must be attractive.

Last, but certainly not least, there is the likely effect on the Conservatives of raising the issue of voting reform. A change of this magnitude would have unpredictable effects on all parties. But a proportional system would cause most problems for the Tory coalition. Electorally, both Tory One Nationers and the Thatcherite nationalists would have less reason to continue tolerating one another.

Under PR, both factions could hope to win seats in the Commons by themselves. As the *Mail*'s unnamed minister realised, the Tory party would find this a powerful disintegrative

There, then, is the self-interested Blairite case for embracing voting reform; it would buy him the time he needs to prove himself a serious orime minister, while damaging his nemies more than his own party. It is the sort of bold, imaginative stroke that one can imagine Disraeli delight-

ing in.

Some will complain that it is also unprincipled, and that Blair sees himself more as a Gladstone than a dirty Dizzy. But almost everything that the average politician says about the vot-ing system is unprincipled. When Tories praise the current system for offering stability, what they mean is: "us in power for keeps". When Liberal Democrats rail against the frustration of the people's will, what they

mean is: "us lot kept out".

This is fair enough. A voting system is neither a thing of beauty nor a joy for ever. It is a mechanism, a tool whose shape skews the politics of the country that employs it. That's all. If Blair needs some voting reform prin-ciples to disguise a brutal démarche, he can pick them up quickly enough.
So why would he besitate; and what
does he really think? Whenever I have

talked to him he has seemed coolly sceptical about voting reform, though careful not to commit himself against it. His advisers are split, I guess 50:50. He has every incentive not to show his hand yet. He knows that if he announced his conversion to reform, he would infuriate some key

colleagues with whom his relation-

ship is already problematic. It would be futile to split Labour before an election in pursuit of a policy designed to split the Conservatives afterwards. We may recall that Neil Kinnock also seemed hostile because he, too, was obsessed by the possi-bility of a pre-election split, yet we now know that he was a private con-

vert to voting reform. Blair may not be another Kinnock on the issue. But I suspect that he is more open-minded than he lets on, or than some of his advisers would like. He has held strongly to John Smith's promise of a referendum - strongly enough to twist some union arms before the last party conference in order to prevent a vote against it.

More recently, he has sanctioned private frontbench talks with the Liberal Democrats on political reform, and, in an interview with my colleague Donald Macintyre, has said that he would take a view in any referendum on voting reform. Is it thinkable that, in the turbulent midst of his reforming administration, Blair would find himself campaigning alongside Michael Portillo and the High Tories, in the "no change"

I used to think so, but I am changing my mind. The implications could not be bigger. If a referendum mandated reform, there would follow a Commons battle of heroic scale, in which every Tory MP returned in 1997 would join with Labour last-

ditchers against the change.

I think the anonymous minister, warning his colleagues of a possible convulsion ahead, was spot on. If Blair is offered a chance to make history, he may hum, haw and hesitate.

is frequently claimed. One LEA in London once accused Muslims of forging withdrawal requests, in its

effort to ensure that parental choice

allows children who have been withdrawn from RE to receive alternative,

more suitable lessons from qualified

teachers as long as there is no extra cost to the school. Any head teacher

with an ear to the ground and an eye on the delegated budget must surely

want to respect parents' wishes and be

only too happy to make provision for alternative, fully Islamic RE for chil-

dren withdrawn from the statutory

lessons. Failure to do so would place

the school at risk of losing pupils to other, more enlightened schools; lose

pupils and you lose money and the

Telling parents they

Is there a way out? The 1944 Act

was ignored and refused.

#### children, says Glenys Thornton If, as Tony Blair says, educa-Tarriet Harman's dilemma is tion is to be the passion of the none faced by thousands of parents throughout London and many other cities. What would any parent do, given three local schools with very poor achieve-ment records and the opportunew Labour government, we need to come clean about the issues we face.

against party policy and will cause me and the party no end

Is not the question, surely, why are the other schools so

poor, and what should Labour

do about that? It is not Har-

riet's fault that 17 years of Conservatives who do not

know, and care even less, about

state-funded education, have

left this country with a hope-

lessly unequal education sys-

tem. Our schools reinforce our

inefficient, socially and eco-

By her action, however, she

has drawn attention to the fact

that for too long old Labour has

colluded with appallingly poor

nomically divided society.

now in shreds.

the current orthodoxy.

still find ourselves defeated and

our children's needs not met by

teachers coping with large classes, unacceptable numbers

of children with special needs,

and the problems of mixed-

ability teaching under such

circumstances. Some of us fly

to schools in less poor areas

because we can,

of trouble if I let you go."

Too many schools are failing too many children. The remedies are many - but the first has nity to send their son to a school to be a commitment to spend with an excellent record? money. If we cannot say we will On the basis of the sancti-monious tone taken by Gerald

attend to the problems of the many failing schools, we cannot Steinberg MP (the chair of be taken seriously. Labour's parliamentary educa-We must recognise that all tion committee who resigned in protest yesterday) Harriet was parents have aspirations for their children. They want them presumably supposed to say to to do better than they did, and her son: "Sorry old love, I know your friends are going to St Olave's and it's a good school. but its selection procedure is

they feel this with passion. We must recognise that the middle classes will always have choices, and will exercise them.

Will my rather gentle son survive the local Hackney comprehensive?

Our aim must be to get them to choose within the state sector. It means understanding that creating good educational opportunities for all does not mean restricting choices; it means creating more choices to which more parents have access.

As a parent with a son in year five junior school, who lives in standards in inner-city comprehensives, and particularly Hackney, who is deeply com-mitted to state education (eduin inner London. Our policy is For too long friends and colcated in a Yorkshire comprehensive myself), I can tell you leagues have chosen to conthere is real anguish involved in these decisions. Will my brightdemn and drive underground those of us who say these ish rather gentle son survive the schools are not good enough for our children. This is one of rigours of my local Hackney secondary comprehensive with its chronic underfunding, overthe few areas left in Labour politics where one can be routinely denounced for not being a worked and sometimes demotivated staff, children from enorsocialist because you question mously deprived backgrounds and lousy results? Well, he might, with all of the support we But these schools are not

good enough for anyone's children. Old Labour pontifican give and buy for him. cates about the importance of On the other hand, he may supporting local community schools without the slightest not. Given that we have a choice, being mobile, deter-mined and having two incomes, notion of the price your children and you may pay to do so. there are other options open to We give generously of our us even in the state sector. We time to the school, some becould move house, we could come governors, others support use our skills to lobby and press fundraising and other activities. for him to be in a better school we help with reading, run clubs farther away, he could sit exams after school. But even so, we can like Joe Dromey - for which we

would have prepared him. And who would blame us for taking the opportunities for him that we can? You only get one shot at your children's education. In many ways Harriet has done us all a favour.

The writer is director of development of the Fabian Society.

Ä

**HAGU** 

## Having faith in freedom

Ibrahim Hewitt argues that education should encourage religious expression, not stifle it

By choosing to exercise their legal right to withdraw their children from religious education in school, Muslim parents in Batley have challenged accepted orthodoxy surrounding "multi-faith" RE in schools. As questions are asked in the media about "the trouble" in Kirklees, we need to ask ourselves, "Why the fuss?"

aran Sata

A CHOICE

When I first heard about this, the only surprise I felt was that it has taken parents so long to act. It is patently obvious that teaching Muslim children more about other faiths - in particular Christianity - than their own is neither right nor justifiable. Parents and ulema (Islamic scholars) in the West Yorkshire town have decided that enough is enough. This concurs with a legal opinion from the oldest university in the Islamic world,

'It is one thing to respect others, but self-respect must come first'

Al-Azhar in Cairo, which states: "It is forbidden to let our children learn in such lessons doctrines which violate the religion of Islam ... parents should ... keep them away from such lessons and notify the ... schools about their

The right to withdraw a child from RE in Britain goes back to the 1944 Education Act, but this is the first time that a single large bloc of Muslims has opted to do so. Judging by the reaction, the fear is that it will not be the last. It is debatable whether such action will spread and - wishful thinking aside - I doubt that it will. Batley is a very close-knit community of Muslims with a healthy respect for the ulema and any advice from the latter is likely to be acted upon. This (sadly) cannot be said of all Muslim communities in Britain.

Nevertheless, the dispute centres on the nature of the locally agreed RE syl-labus and so it could affect local education authorities (LEAs) all over England. According to the 1988 Education Reform Act, RE syllabuses must "reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are, in the main, Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain". Getting the balance right between Christianity and other faiths is the task of local "agreed syl-



Faith first: few Muslim parents have withdrawn their children from RE in schools

labus conferences", the membership of which is appointed by each LEA. National "model syllabuses", however, carry the weight of official directives rather than helpful guidance. Whatever syllabus is chosen, if it suits local needs all well and good. That is what good practice - of which there are many examples - should be cen-

Should we be surprised that Kirklees Council finds itself facing a rejection of something supposedly "agreed" by all faiths? Isn't choice what the democratic process is all about? Why should "the Batley syndrome" necessitate a "compromis between the LEA and the Muslim community? Telling parents that they respect others, but self-respect must

and then berating them for doing so

is bemusing, not to say amusing.

Many in the interfaith movement will deplore what is happening, for very sincere reasons, but I think they are misguided in their sincerity. A few years ago, on Kilroy (we all make mis-takes), I sat next to Rabbi Cyril Harris, then of St Johns Wood Synagogue, now South Africa's Chief Rabbi, and he made a very pertinent point when challenged on the issue of "separate" or "exclusive" RE. Countering the claim that such education makes it difficult for tolerance and understanding to grow between faith groups, Rabbi Harris said: "It is one thing to

can withdraw their children from RE come first." If Muslim children are taught their own faith first and foremost, their self-respect and selfesteem will develop; respect for others will follow, for Islamic RE includes a study of "the People of the Book" (as Jews and Christians are called in the Koran), but it does so subjectively within the context of Islam. Objective

study can come later. Muslim parents, almost routinely in some areas, face an inquisition when submitting withdrawal requests, and many have backed down under intolerable pressure from their children's schools. The lack of sizeable numbers of withdrawals in schools around the country does not indicate complete The writer is Development Officer of the satisfaction with the RE imparted as Association of Muslim Schools.

can withdraw children and then berating them for doing so is bemusing

downward spiral begins.

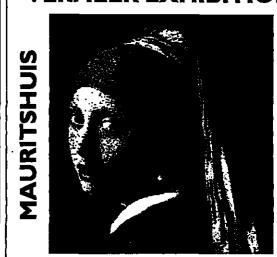
A more radical alternative is for the Government to remove the "pre-dominantly Christianity" clause from the relevant legislation, freeing LEAs and schools to develop their own syllabuses more in tune with the needs of pupils. The present system is cumbersome and, as has been demonstrated, prone to criticism. Of course, the Government would see this as an impossibility; there are too many votes to be lost in "middle England"

wishes of Muslim parents. A yet more radical alternative is for Muslims to have the same choice of schools as Jews or Christians and for state funding of Muslim schools to be granted willingly. This would satisfy parents whose wish is for a complete Islamic education for their children

for it to be worth pandering to the

within the state system. We should be happy that there are parents taking a keen interest in their children's education. It will be a shame if a desire to "do the right thing" for all children combines with an inflexible system to deny real choice to the very people it sets out to serve. If any fear arises out of this latest disagreement, this should be the

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ANOTHER VIEW Rhoda Koenig

### Why puritan America just loves Jane Austen

One half of the world," wrote Jane Austen, "cannot understand the pleasures of the other." This aphorism is confounded by the ecsta-tic reception given in the United States to Pride and Prejudice and, now, Sense and Sensibility. The first was seen by more than 11 million people when shown on American television; the film of the second, starring Emma Thompson and Hugh Grant, has won awards for Best Screenplay and Best Dramatic Picture at the Golden Globe Awards, considered an accurate predictor of the Oscars, and is expected to do £50m worth of business.

Part of this can be explained by the

casting: neither Jennifer Ehle nor Thompson will make female viewers jealous, while the cuddly Grant and the smouldering Colin Firth are dishy without being vulgar. But while this obtains on both sides of the pond, other factors contribute to Austen's American success

Both films feed the fond American notion of English culture and refinement, an idea that thrives on lack of familiarity. Americans would be astounded to be told that the Bennets and the Dashwoods, despite their live-in servants and fancy clothes, are merely upper middle-class or that the real aristocracy, occupied with

huntin' and whorin', can be pigs at table and something worse in bed. Austen's dialogue is sharp, simple and free of allusions to such arcana as the poetry of Byron or the Battle of Waterloo. To Americans, who think every Brit has a butler or is one, she makes the upper class not only enviable, but also recognisably human.

The low level of extra-marital romping in Austen also pleases punters in America, where Showpirls and similarly raunchy ventures have bombed. America is so much bigger and richer than Britain, and so much more openly dedicated to experiencing pleasure and marketing it, that one tends to forget

it is still a puritanical country. Religious revivals, including the virgin-andproud-of-it movement, have huge folowings; rates of teenage pregnancy and illegitimate births are lower pornography can carry severe legal penalties; political correctness restricts or prohibits much sex-related speech and conduct; television does not show nudity. Austen's suitability to young persons recommends her not only to the would-be cultured, but also to Americans who can't find Britain on the map. Her extended, graceful narratives are a refreshing change for audiences who are familiar only with a jumbled, episodic format as an excuse for

delayed sexual consummation and marriage - as in When Harry Met Sally, for example, or Hugh Grant's own Four Weddings And A Few Bonks.

Classy and clean, the Austen adap-tations are a good advertisement for England and will doubtless lift admissions to Chawton, as Brideshead Revisited did to Castle Howard. If the tourists arrive a bit glassy-eyed, however, we will know that they ran into modern Britain, with its tattoos. shaven heads, and nostril, nipple and navel rings, on the way.

The writer is a London-based American literary and theatre critic.

Aerospace crisis: Collapse of loss-ridden Dutch plane-maker could boost competitor BAe but hit profits at Rolls-Royce

## Fokker facing extinction after Daimler pulls out

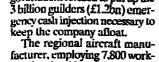
**IMRE KARACS** Bonn and RUSSELL HOTTEN

The loss-making Dutch aircraft manufacturer Fokker was on the verge of extinction yesterday after its largest shareholder. Daimler-Benz of Germany, pulled the

plug on further investment.
"Profitability must take precedence over revenues," said Jurgen Schrempp, chairman of Daimler-Benz, after an extraordinary meeting of the company's supervisory board in Stuttgart. which posted unexpectedly high losses for the group.

"With over 80 per cent of our businesses running satisfactorily. we owe it to our shareholders not to allow the other 20 per what would be the biggest recent to impede our overall performance." he said.

Daimler-Benz holds a 39.8



of 460 million guilders. Trading in Fokker shares,

the past two weeks, was suspended on the Amsterdam stock exchange ahead of yesterday's announcement. Though the Dutch a few months, contingency plans were being made yesterday for dundancy in Dutch history.

Fokker is a direct competitor to British Aerospace, and news per cent stake in Fokker, and the of the crisis contributed to the rise Dutch state holds 11.2 per cent. in BAe's share price which fol-



Tough crew: Daimler-Benz chiefs (from left to right) Hilmar Kopper, Jurgen Schrempp, the chairman, and his predecessor in the job until last summer, Edzard Reuter

Over the weekend, the Dutch lowed the Orange mobile telegovernment refused to put up the 3 billion guilders (£1.2bn) emernev cash injection necessary to

ers in the Netherlands, has debts of 4 billion guilders. Last August it posted a record loss

which lost half their value over government may agree to keep the five Fokker plants going for

phone flotation announcement. BAe shares closed up 12p at 888p. But Fokker is also a big customer the of aero-engine manufacturer Rolls-Royce, whose shares fell 3.5p to 197.5p. One analyst estimated that Fokker's collapse could hit R-R profits by

per cent in 1996. Shorts, the Belfast defence manufacturer, also makes wings for Fokker. About 700 of its 1500 workers are directly involved.

BAe declined to comment on the Fokker situation, but repeated calls for European aerospace to consolidate and tackle the gross overcapacity in the market. There has been speculation that Daimler may seek to put Fokker into an alliance with Aero International Regional, an aircraft joint venture between BAe, Alenia of Italy, and France's Aerospatiale.

Fokker has continued to expand production capacity to some 42-45 a year, against the 18 Avro jets BAe produces each year. Fokker aircraft sell at about \$25m, about \$5m higher than the BAe product, which has doubled its order book to almost 100.

Taking the write-off of Fokker into account, Daimler-Benz will have lost DM6bn in 1995, a record for a German firm. Last week the company announced a restructuring package for the electronics group AEG, at a cost of DM1.5bn and some 8,000 jobs. Daimler-Benz shares in Frankfurt dropped by 2 per cent on yesterday's news.



## Black day for Red Baron's planes

Fokker is one of the oldest names in aircraft manufacturing, writes John Eisenhammer. The Dutch plane maker pioneered the development of passenger aircraft. But to many British youth brought up on a fare of war comics, it remains the name associated with exploits of Germany's First

World War fighter ace, the Red Baron von Richthofen. Anthony Fokker, the founder, supplied the Red Baron with his famous tri-planes. It was only

just after the Great War, in 1919, that Fokker was formally founded as a company, going on over three-quarters of a century to design and build 125 different types of plan. The Fokker IV made aviation history in 1922 when it crossed the United States from coast to coast.

It gave birth to the eightseater Fokker VII in 1924 and made the first direct flight from the Netherlands to Dutch Indonesia in the same year.

The death of its founder in

December 1939 and the German invasion halted project development during the Second World War, but in 1946 it was rebuilt by the post-occupation government.

A 10-year marriage to the German plane-maker VFW in the 1960s foreshadowed Fokker's rescue in 1993 by Daimler-Benz, but recession plunged Fokker into the red and prompted the first of many state bail-outs in 1987, as it flew into increasing turbulence in the hugely competi-

tive market for medium sized commercial aircraft.

The company was back in the black by 1990 and predicting good times ahead - spurring

merger talks with Daimler's subsidiary, Deutsche Aerospace (DASA), which saw this expansion as the means to realising its dream of becoming the predominant national aircraft manufacturer in Europe. The deal was finally done in March 1993, by which time

### **Options** windfall lands on Norman

NIC CICUTTI

Asda's chief executive, Archic Norman, has netted an instant profit of £1.8m after exercising his right to buy more than 2.4 million shares in his company at 36p and selling them for 110p.

Mr Norman's share option windfall comes on top of his £510,000 salary, including the £138,000 performance-related bonus he drew in the year to April. It also follows a decision on his part to exercise 2 million options in July last year, boost-

ing his pay package in 1995 by a further £1.26m. An Asda spokesman yester-day said: "This was the last day in which he could exercise them if he was to have fresh options issued to him. He has now been granted a further 791,895 options exercisable not before January 22 1999, at a price of

111.5p."

He denied that Mr Norman's decision was motivated by a wish to withdraw from the company in order to further his po-litical career within the Tory party. "The position is as it has always been. This is an old ru-mour and nothing has changed. His commitment is to the company."

Even after the decision to exercise his options on Friday, Mr Norman retains a further 2 million-plus options, worth at least £1.6m at today's prices. They can be cashed in at any

time up to March 2002. He was also granted 520,328 share options at 54.5p, of which half can be cashed in July 1997 and the other half a year later. With Asda shares at 108p yesterday, down 3p, he is sitting on a paper profit of £250,000.

In September, as part of a bonus package first agreed in 1993, Mr Norman was granted the right to an additional 279,000 shares at just 1p each. His deputy chief executive, Allan Leighton, was granted 227,000 shares at the same op-

tion price. Under the auspices of Mr Norman and Mr Leighton, who joined the company in 1992, Asda has been transformed from a company on the brink of biggest food retailer.

In 1991, it was struggling under £1bn of debt. Shares reached a low of 23p in August 1992. Since then, Asda's market capitalisation has risen from £640m to more than £3bn.

Last year, the supermarket group announced a 35 per cent leap in profits before tax to £246.2m in the year to the end of April 1995.

## Slowdown in growth breaks Clarke's economic forecast

PAUL WALLACE Economics Editor

Sluggish expansion in the economy in the fourth quarter brought the annual rate of growth down to its lowest for almost three years. The continu-Kenneth Clarke has missed the forecast for growth in 1995 set

out in last November's Budget. Labour said the fall in the growth rate to 1.8 per cent, compared with the fourth quarter of 1994, highlighted the underlying weakness of the UK economy. "The Government's failure on the economy and especially on investment has

drew Smith, shadow chief sec-But the Treasury said the

fundamentals were still in place for a bounceback in the economy. The Chancellor stood by his forecast of 3 per cent growth

growth in gross domestic product for the whole of 1995 compared with 1994 was somewhat less than the Treasury forecast of 2.75 per cent made at the end of last year, and well down on its forecast of 3.25 per cent made in the 1994 budget.

This first estimate of economic output for the whole of

peak in the second quarter of 1990, output has risen by more than 6 per cent. The sectors performing most

strongly since the low point of the first quarter of 1992 were transport, which have expanded by over 20 per cent. Business services and oil and gas extraction have grown by around 20 per cent.

grown in line with the economy as a whole, at about 10 per cent. Manufacturing has increased by less than average, with an 8 per pecially on investment has 1995 brought total growth since cent pick-up in output. Constanted economic growth." An-

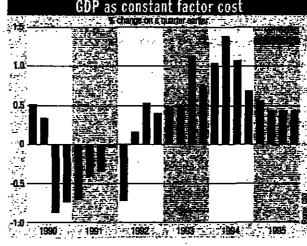
the beginning of 1992 to over 10 per cent. Since the earlier table weak spot. The insurance sector has also made no gains. sector has also made no gains. This pattern of growth in

services and weak construction was also displayed in the quarter-on-quarter growth estimates. Overall, output grew by a meagre 0.4 per cent for the equivalent to an annualised rate of 1.6 per cent.

However, services, which account for almost two-thirds of round 20 per cent. the economy, grew by 0.7 per Retailing and catering have cent, a touch stronger than in the third quarter. Overall growth was dragged down by a further decline in construction, although less than in the previous three quarters, and flat in-

strongest in wholesaling and catering, which expanded by more than 1 per cent. Retailing grew by a little under 1 per cent. Business services, telecoms and recreational activities also posted healthy growth. However, in-

The question now is whether eak growth will persist in the first half of 1996. Today's industrial trends survey from the Confederation of British Industry will provide some clues. Last October there was a marked fall in business optimism, with a balance of 11 per cent of manufacturers saying they were less rather than more optimistic.



## House sales hit four-year low

#### NIC CICUTTI

The fragility of the housing market recovery was underlined by figures yesterday showing that the number of home purchases in England and Wales during December were at their lowest level for four years.

Optimism on the loans front is also set to be dashed later today with figures from the Building Societies Association likely to show the net amount lent last month fell substantially below November's total of £865m. The net lending total of about £500m will, however, still be substantially up on the previous figure of £295m, which was recorded in October.

Housing transactions recorded by the Central Statistical Office for December were 89,000, down about 14 per cent from the figure of 104,000 for the December 1994.

The new sales low comes despite figures from Halitax Building Society showing that house prices have risen every

ko kan ada 8 sept at 1300 km

FT Small Cap 1995 87

Source: FT Information

5195 52

ladices

FTSE 100

FTSE 250

month in the last five. Since Sep-tember mortgage lenders have reduced the cost of home loans three times in a bid to kick-start the market.
The crisis facing the housing

market last year was underlined by the fact that transactions in England and Wales, at 1.13 million, were the lowest since A BSA spokeswoman said:

"One cannot argue that these are good figures. They do imply that December was not a good month. We seem to be going two steps forward and one step back. We expect mortgage lending

figures for December to be gloomy, but the month is not traditionally one in which a lot of sales activity takes place. "It could be argued that the very fact that transactions have remained stable compared to November is in itself a measure

of a element of stability now in The quarterly figures, issued by the Central Office of Statis-

1110

12608-

2954.20 3.80

1861.50 1482.40 3.76

20669 03 14485 41 0.75†

10955.33 6967.93 3.461

2398.76 1910.96 1 85†

3300.90 3.59

1678.61 3.13

<u>1469 23 3.71</u> 3832.08 2.33

Day's change Change (%) 1995/96 High 1995/96 Lone Visid(%)

4080 10

1995 87

1834.51

5215.47

STOCK MARKETS

+5.6<u>0</u> +0.2

-08

\_\_+4 **6**0

<u> 1834 51 +2 98 +0 2</u>

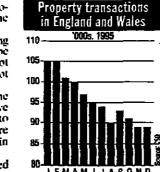
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tics, show an overall decline in transactions in the final quarter of last year, down to a seasonally-adjusted figure of 269,000, itself the lowest level since the first three months of 1993.

Rob Thomas, building society analyst at UBS, the Swiss hanking group, said: "Property transaction figures lag behind what is happening in the mar-

"In this case, they probably reflect what was happening in



loney Market Rates

i Mosti

0.44

3,59\_

<u>Lucas Industries 202</u>

1 1

0,69

Many Company Company Falls

Book Yields \*

House Boat (%)

14 7.4 Menzies(John)

October or earlier. One can deduce that there has not yet been that much of a pick-up.

"In fact, we are down to the levels not seen since the worst point in 1992 or 1993. It is difficult to see how the market can remain at these exceptionally

Ian Shepherdson, UK economist at HSBC Greenwell, dis-puted the significance of the CSO's statistics: "The fact is that what we are seeing at present is the working through of the worst point in the market sev-

eral months ago.

The real figures, which show
the level of commitments by lenders, show a different picture altogether. They indicate that the market is moving back up-ward, though that will probably not be reflected in these figures

until the Spring.
"In any case, they are skewed by the fact that Cheltenham & Gloucester was a building society until last August, so there is no meaningful way to compare them year-on-year."

Long Beard (%) Near Ago

Price (p) Charge (s) % Charge

4.4 4.1

7.71

7.48

6.01

### Highland buys 26% stake in Macallan

#### CLIFFORD GERMAN

Highland Distilleries, the owner of Famous Grouse, the bestselling blended Scotch. yesterday paid £46.6m in cash for a 26 per cent stake in Macallan Glenlivet, owner of one of the best-known premium

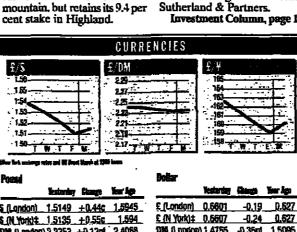
Highland acquired the distribution rights for the Macallan brands in the UK in 1994, and the Famous Grouse and the Macallan complement one another in the UK, Highland's managing director, Brian Ivory,

said yesterday.

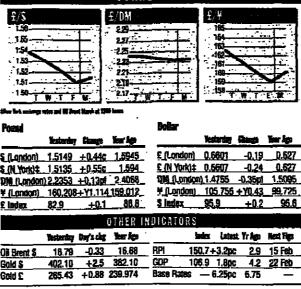
Highland sold a 12 per cent stake in Macallan to Remy Cointreau for £31m in 1990 as part of a share swap and marketing deal, and has now paid £46.4m for double its original holding. Remy has been selling assets to reduce its £250m debt cent stake in Highland.

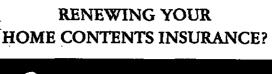
Highland bought its stake for 1525p a share, a 15 per cent discount on last Friday's market price of 182p. It has still paid 35 times Macallan-Glenlivet's current earnings, but sales of Macalian malt have been held back by a shortage of stock which is now easing, industry sources said yesterday, and sales are rising with the help of a clever advertising campaign. Mr Ivory expects the acquisition to dilute earnings by 2 per cent in the first year.

Macallan shares fell 18p to 160p yesterday while Highland shed 6p to 320p. Scotland's broking community gave its ap-proval yesterday. "The earnings multiple is a high one, but given the quality of the sector i makes good sense for Highland to tie up with the Macallan brand, said Alan Gray, analyst at the Edinburgh-based brokers Sutherland & Partners. Investment Column, page 18



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'It is plainly the case that fund managers are, like everyone else, going to have to

become much more accountable

for their decisions

It is always possible that Mercury Asset Man-agement will today do the reverse of what it matter for govern-ment, not fund managers.

out heavily. But to the nation? What does it matter who owns the Grosvener House or agement will today do the reverse of what everyone expects and back Forte with its 14.1 per cent stake against Granada. On past form that is not very likely, however, and come to morrow night, MAM's formidable head of in-

vestment. Carol Galley, will no doubt once again be accused of selling an incumbent management down the river. This, it will be recalled, is what she was accused of two years ago when Granada was bidding for LWI. The lambasting she received at that time from Greg Dyke, then chief executive of LWT. began a process of demonisation which

seems to have reached a crescendo in this bid. Carol Galley, or "the City's most powerful women" as she is often called by the newspapers, is portrayed as the epitomy of the evil City professional, prepared to surrender socially and economically important companies into the bonds of cored stripping mayers. nies into the hands of asset-stripping mavericks for the sake of short-term gain, top-drawer bid fees and bumper bonuses. A few myths need exploding here.

Not only is this a cliched view but it also shows a fundamental misunderstanding of what fund management is about. Fund managers are the people entrusted with our pensions and savings and their job is to seek out the best return they can get for our money. Some, like Carol Galley, are good at it and they get hansomely rewarded for their efforts. If there is one thing they should not be doing, it is getting involved in public

ment, not fund managers.

The Forte and LWT cases are in truth very different ones. In the LWT case, MAM backed a successful management team albeit one that on the back of a monopoly franchise was able to reward itself well beyond the point of common decency - only to sell them out when Granada arrived with its money bags. Here the investment decision was simply that Granada's price was too good to refuse. This was also an industry which was fast consolidating - LWT was always going to be prey rather than predator.
In Forte's case, MAM built up its com-

manding position not because it believed in the management - rather the reverse. Here was an undervalued asset; if incumbent management wasn't able to do anything about il, MAM figured, eventually someone would come along who would. This is not the same thing as putting a company "in play", and Ms Galley fiercely disputes suggestions that she in some way encouraged Granada's Gerry Robinson to bid. From an investment perspective, the strategy has plainly worked. The only judgement MAM needs now to make is whether Forte shares are going to be worth more, or less, if Granada is turned away.

It actually matters not a jot to the economic health of the nation if Forte is broken up, or how much is taken out of this company on the way in the form of City fees. It matters to Granada and its shareholders, for policy issues. If a company is to be given spe- | if it all goes wrong, they are going to lose

Little Chef? Forte is in essence no more than a property company with a Manuel-type ser-vice kicker attached for fun. Nobody would complain about the break-up of a property company. But even if it did matter, is this really something that Ms Galley should be factoring into her decision? None of the pension fund trustees who employ her would

'City's most powerful woman' is just doing her job

thank her if she did; they might even fire her. It is plainly the case, however, that fund managers are, like everyone else, going to have to become much more accountable for their decisions. Once apon a time, these were faceless, anonymous people perfectly able to hide behind the facade of commer-cial secrecy and say simply: "It's nothing to do with you". As Carol Galley has shown, once you raise your head above the parapet by taking large, strategic stakes in well known companies, the fund manager and what he - or as often she these days - is

doing become objects of public fascination. Rightly so, too. For many managements they hold the power of corporate life and death in their hands. MAM and the others need to start explaining the general principles that lie behind their investment decisions much more fully. To expect a public statement every time they do anything, rather in the nature of a listed company, is perhaps going too far. But some glasnost and perestroika in the affairs of the main fund management groups is long overdue. There

#### Investing in Orange proved to be no joke

It would have made a good joke five years ago to suggest that Hutchison Telecom, main investor in the ill-fated Rabbit telepoint system, was about to make a fortune out of couring money into the much more complex digital cellphone technology. But times change and yesterday's joke seems to have

become today's goldmine.

Six months after buying Rabbit, Hutchison made what at the time seemed a bizarre change of course. It bought 70 per cent of what was then called Microtel, Britain's fourth cellular telephone company. BAe, one of the founder shareholders in the development consortium, retained the other 30 per cent. The company later became Orange and next March it floats on the stock market at a valuation that could be worth as much as £1.5bn for Hutchison and £700m for BAe.

The idea of the flotation is to raise £700m to pay off the debts. This would value the company at £2.8bn. The number is an unofficial one from the telecoms analysts at Kleinwort Benson. But it is presumably the one the vendors have in mind since Klein-wort is co-lead manager for the flotation with Vodafone.

is also nothing like pre-emption. Come Tony Blair's stakeholder economy, one way or another, they are going to be held to market in the UK—a modest 7 per cent, far Orange is not its share of the total cellphone market in the UK – a modest 7 per cent, far behind Vodafone and Cellnet – but its position in digital telephones, the higher quality system that is rapidly displacing the old

analogue phones.

The cellphone market is reckoned to be The celiphone market is reckoned to be growing at 150,000 customers a month, of which 100,000 take digital systems – and 30,000 of those are Orange's. Altogether, the company claims 26 per cent of the digital market from a standing start in April 1994. Kleinwort forecasts that as the market turns progressively digital, Orange will have a quarter of all mobile phones by 2005. What gives these optimistic-looking growth projections some credibility is the current structure of the some credibility is the current structure of the market. There is a ceiling on the total capacity the two pioneer companies can offer in digital and analogue services combined. It is thought they may not be far off that ceiling, which is set by the airspace available.

The bulk of their customers are now using analogue. The delicate problem Vedeling.

analogue. The delicate problem Vodafone and Cellnet have to resolve is how fast to shift to digital within their fixed capacity. Too slow, and they let Orange in. Too fast, and they upset the cash cow of the existing customer base of analogue sets. Orange has a tactical advantage - at least for a year or two. Even so it might seem a bit of cheek to float the upstart newcomer at a valuation of get-

The Maxwell trial: Civil action for tens of millions is back in play as brothers await SFO's decision on outstanding indictments

## Pension fund liquidator to restart claim against Ian

JOHN WILLCOCK

Financial Correspondent

The liquidator of the main Maxwell pension fund company is set to contact Ian Maxwell's lawyers to restart a multi-million pound legal claim against him over alleged breaches of his duties as a director of the company.

The liquidator of Bishopsgate Investment Management (BIM), Neil Cooper of Robson Rhodes, has already been paid £500,000 by Ian in an interim payment under the claim in 1993. Mr Cooper then agreed to put the rest of the claim, running into tens of millions of pounds, on ice until the end of Ian's criminal trial. The trial verdict does not affect this civil claim.

BlM collasped at the end of 1991 with debts of over £400m. The BIM liquidator put Kevin Maxwell into bankruptcy with a claim for £400m. He was autofrom this

ceived any money from Kevin in respect of the bancruptcy. The claim is one of a number of loose ends left after the acquittal of Ian and his brother Kevin on conspiracy to defraud charges last week. Both brothers will hear on Friday morning whether the Serious Fraud Office intends to proceed with further outstanding indictments

The Department of Trade and Industry said yesterday that on liquidators' reports on di-



Pandora Maxwell with her husband Kevin after his acquittal at the Old Bailey last week

lengthy inspectors' report has been completed.

fected the investigation by two independent inspectors into the Mirror group flotation, which the DTI set up on 8 June 1992. The report is still not completed, and the DTI has refused

to speculate on when it might be ready. A DTI spokesman said yesterday: "The department won't take action prematurely."

radical restructuring of the ho-

tels and restaurants business

where Forte had made its

"It may be close, but Grana-

A Granada spokesman said

the company was "quiet confi-

dent", following several days of

meetings with insitutions and a

ring round of private investors

A Forte spokesman disputed

the consensus view in the City,

claiming that the outcome was going to be "very, very close".

He added: "Shareholders
have waited until the very last

moment to make a decision.

suggesting there is still alot to

play for."
Mercury Asset Management

which holds 14.1 per cent of

Forte, is tipped to tender its

shares to Granada, although the

investment fund's chief strate-

gist, vice-chairman Carol Gal-

ley, had no comment yesterday. Meanwhile, Whitbread held

its much-trailed meeting with MAM yesterday, in an effort to

convince Ms Galley to back

Forte's independence. If Forte

sees off the bid. Whitbread will

pay £1.05bn for the Little Chef

and Happy Eater roadside

restaurants, the Welcome Break

chain and Forte's Travelodge

A Whitoread spokesman

चनकरूपे १५ ४ वर्षे पुरिष्<mark>या विश्वास्त</mark>्री होता । १०० सन् विष्या के द्वारा क्षेत्र का विश्वास्त्री होता ।

said: "We had constructive and

budget hotels.

over the weekend.

da must looks like winning," one

analyst said.

bankruptcy last September. as company directors until a disqualify them from acting in BIM's liquidators have not relengthy inspectors' report has the same capacity again. But the same capacity again. But yesterday the DTI said that The acquittals have not afthe inspectors report supersedes all other investigations.

The BIM liquidator also has a number of other legal claims; against Credit Suisse for £20m, and against the French investment company Euris and Banque Nationale de Paris for another £20m.

Mr Cooper has also joined a number of Maxwell pension Normally the DTI would rely fund trustees, Mirror Group Newspapers and the adminisit would not decide whether or rectors' behaviour to decide trators of Maxwell Communi-

claiming a total of over £500m from 15 insurers.

These claims are for breaches of duties by the directors of the Maxwell companies.

With the criminal trial out of the way other administrators are pressing ahead with legal claims. Price Waterhouse, the administrator of MCC, is suing Maxwell's auditors, Coopers & Lybrand, for "many millions of pounds" in the US and UK courts. PW is also suing Nat West, Barclays and Société Générale for more than £100m in the US courts.

## Lyell affirms his faith in SFO

STEPHEN WARD STEPHEN GOODWIN

Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney General, yesterday reaffirmed his faith in the Serious Fraud Office and the handling of the Maxwell trial after Tony Banks, Labour MP for Newham NE, told the Commons his own gut feeling was that the brothers "are about as innocent as OJ Simpson".

The case, which resulted in Ian and Kevin Maxwell and Larry Trachtenberg, a financial adviser, being found not guilty of defrauding pension funds, was investigated with great skill, Sir Nicholas said.

"The case was handled by the court in an exemplary fashion. his Liberal Democrat counter-

The jury considered the matter with care and reached their decision. That is British justice." Sir Nicholas said that the way to proceed in such cases in future was under review. "Trial by jury is a very important part of

house and country would never move lightly. But it does not mean that it is necessarily the only way.
"We will look calmly and carefully, when this case is fully over, in a very thoughtful

our liberties from which the

manner as to whether there is a way in which these cases could be tried better than by But John Morris QC, the

shadow attorney-general, and

defended jury trials in fraud cases. "I know so far of no better way of assessing dishonesty," Mr Morris said.

Lawyers who have represented clients in some of the big fraud trials were anxious yesterday to defend the SFO, their former adversary.

But one senior solicitor pointed out that there was no way to monitor the internal workings of the SFO, or to monitor the agency's performance in the way that the equivalent body is audited in Germany. "The public debate remains totally uninformed," he said.

He pointed out that it was not easy to keep the SFO efficient: "It is not like a commercial firm,

part, Alex Carlile QC, both the employees are civil ser-defended jury trials in fraud casfired at will."

Expert lawyers defended both the SFO's competence in the cases it has brought, and the continuing need for a body that the Roskill Committee re-port in 1986 said should be a single unified organisation re-sponsible for all the functions of detection, investigation and prosecution of serious fraud".

The SFO was set up in 1988. The record of the SFO and its director, George Staple, who is to stand down at the end of his five-year contract next year, has been widely criticised in the City and in Parliament since the jury's decision on the Maxwell

## Granada may face DTI quiz on bid document

**MATHEW HORSMAN** 

Granada last night faced possible action by the Department of Trade and Industry as the clock ticked down to today's 1pm deadline for its £3.9bn bid for Forte.

The DTI is prepared to consider evidence that Granada mislead shareholders by publicly understating its asset disposal programme in its original offer document, according to an answer to a written question put by John Carlisle, MP for Luton

The issue relates to Granada's promise, detailed in the offer document, to "capitalise on the Meridien brand" if its bid succeeded. But by the time an increased offer was unveiled six weeks later, Granada had decided to sell the hotels outright. Pointing to comments by Gerry Robinson, Granada's

chief executive, that appeared in the *Independent* earlier this month, Forte suggested Grana-da had intended all along to sell the hotels. In the article, published on 10 January, Mr Robinson is quoted as saying: "We downplayed our intentions because we were bloody nervous that Forte might paint us as asset strippers."

Any action by the DTI would come long after shareholders cast their bids today.

Success for Granada would mark the end of a UK hotels dynasty, and the beginning of a to comment further.

#### **USAir climbs out of the red**

USAir yesterday offered new evidence of a turnaround in its fortunes, confirming that it had climbed out of the red in the fourth quarter of 1995, recording net income of \$60.3 million compared with losess of \$322m in the same quarter a year before. In 1995, USAir - in which BA has a 24.5 per cent stake - pulled out of a five-year nosedive in which losses totalled \$3 billion. Stephen Wolf, the aviation veteran credited with resurrecting United Airline's fortunes through the employee buy-out in 1994, took over as USAir's new chairman and chief executive yesterday.

IN BRIEF

#### British Gas moves into electricity

British Gas and Scottish Hydro confirmed the formation of a joint venture to invest £315m in a gas turbine power station at Avon-mouth. But British companies have missed out on the contract to build the station which has been awarded to Siemens.

#### **Boost for compensation scheme**

The Personal Investment Authority, the financial watchdog, yesterday unveiled plans to reform the beleaguered Investors Com-pensation Scheme by raising up to £15m in additional funds over three years. The money would be used to bail the scheme out should it face moments of crisis such as last year, when the Treasury was forced to step in and guarantee payouts to investors.

#### Bluebird nets Batman

Batman and Spiderman are to join Mickey Mouse and Polly Pocket in the miniature world of Bluebird Toys. The company has acquired the rights to use the Batman characters from DC Comics, a division of the US entertainment group Time Warner, and Spiderman from Toy Biz, part of Marvel Entertainment of the US. Investment column, page 18

#### Gold breaks \$400 barrier

The gold price broke through the \$400 an ounce barrier yester-day for the second time in less than a fortnight. In New York, the metal hit a two-and-a-half year high after the price surged \$3.80 to \$403.70 soon after the market opened. In London, gold was fixed at \$401.80, the highest since reaching \$402.65 in August 1993 and up from \$399.10 on Friday afternoon.

#### Former MI6 chief joins board

Sir Colin McColl, the former head of M16, is to join the board of the Scottish American Investment Company, the Edinburghbased investment trust. Sir Colin retired from MI6 in September 1994, having been chief of the security service since 1988 during which time he was involved in both the Falklands and Gulf wars.

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Mensa says, "It's revolutionary." The Daily Mail reported that "Children using Accelerated Learning are racing ahead." "The results are spectacular." BBC and ITV news recently reported on a school

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#### THE INVESTMENT COLUMN Edited by TOM STEVENSON

## Menzies loses out in paper chase

John Menzies: at a glance

rather worse than it actually is, given the heavy second-half bias of the com-pany's retailing operations. Even so, earnings ratio of 15. Given the uncerwith little prospect of clawing back any tainty, that is asking too much. of the damage in the second half, according to the company, analysts' forecasts of up to £45m pre-tax profits look like being £10m too optmistic.

It was no surprise in those circumstances to see the shares slip 29p, or 5 per cent, to 589p, bang in the mid-dle of the becalmed trading range of the past couple of years. Investing in the retail sector has been a volatile game so far this year, with as many companies issuing profits warnings as

boasting of buoyant Christmas trading. The damage was, predictably, in the newspaper wholesaling arm, where the business is being squeezed from both ends by cash-strapped publishers and supermarket chains hungry for market share. Ranald Noel-Paton, managing director, reckons much of the £4m hit in the first six months was a one-off, but it is hard to see that market improving in the near future, any more than it did for NFC and others, once the big retail chains wised up to the fat margins enjoyed by those distribution specialists, and put the squeeze on.

The pace of Menzies' diversification into other distribution markets, such as CD-Roms, computer games and office supplies, suggests the company itself has little faith in the business that currently supplies maybe three-quarters of its dis tribution division's turnover. Profits slid from £13.6m to £10.8m.

The problems afflicting wholesaling would matter less if the other side of the business, the John Menzies and Early Learning Centre retail operations, were not mature and highly

In the first half they accumulated a combined loss of £5.6m, slightly better than last year's £5.8m deficit but still putting a great burden on the important Christmas trading period to rescue group profits for the year to April. In fact trading over the festive period was disappointing. The Early Learning Centre, especially, saw trading deteriorate throughout 1995.

Menzies has produced an impressive run of earnings and dividend growth over the past five years. Unwilling to surrender this record, it increased the half-year payout by 4.4 per cent to 4.8p. Even at that level, where it provides shareholders with a paltry 3 per cent yield, it was badly uncovered by earn-

The slump in half-time profits at John Menzies from £7.3m to £3.8m looked ings per share of 3p, down from 7.6p. On the basis of the company's fullyear profits hint, say £34.5m, the

#### **Superheroes lift Bluebird Toys**

bit since October, when the announcement of a marketing link-up with Disney sent them soaring to a high of 375p. Selling by founder and chairman Torquil Norman and the charitable trust he established has not helped. but nothing sinister should be read into these moves. Mr Norman, who is 63, has long intimated his intention to step aside to spend more time on charitable causes and last month he confirmed he would retire in May.

More important was yesterday's three-way licensing agreement be-in the first quarter and Superman tween Bluebird and three big US probably in the third, the company says. tween Bluebird and three big US entertainment and toy groups. Time Warner, Hasbro and Marvel, for Batman and Spiderman. Bluebird is ac- enues this year and £8m next.

Trading record

Pre-tax profits (£m)

Earnings per share (pence

Dividend cover

quiring the Batman rights from DC Comics, part of Time Warner, and Spistatus as a serious player in the toy in-dustry and yesterday's 18p rise to 338p ting on a 6 per cent stake. looks fully justified

Like the Disney tie-up, the new rights give Bluebird access to two extremely well-known "brand" names, which have proved their enduring value. Bluebird will design and manufacture the miniature playsets derived from Shares in Bluebird Toys have eased a Batman and Spiderman, which will be similar to its successful Polly Pocket and Mighty Max ranges, and will handle distribution in the UK and Ireland.

But equally important is that, having joined with US toy giant Mattel for the Disney deal, it has now cemented a link with the US distributor Hasbro. The latter will distribute the Batman range outside Britain and Ireland and Spiderman products in all countries outside the home markets, except the

US, Canada, China, Japan and Mexico. Batman figures should be available

ket value: £331	m, share pri	ica 589p	3 45 5 1	
1993	1994	1995	1994	1995
1.14	1.23	1.26	0.58	0.63
30.1	34.4	38.1	7.3	38
34.6	40.7	44.6	7.6	3.0
10.8	11.8	13.2	4.6	4.8
	Sha	re pric	9	
	700			
7	500 550	N	47	
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	300 —	<u></u>		

The demise of Mighty Max means profits probably slipped to £18m last year, derman from Toy Biz, an offshoot of Marvel. The deal confirms Bluebird's putting the shares on a forward multiple

#### A nice dram for Highland

Highland Distilleries seems to have done itself, and perhaps its partner Remy Cointreau, a good turn by buying Remy's 26 per cent stake in Macallan Glenlivet. The deal includes shares that Highland originally gave to Remy in 1990 as part of a complex cross-shareholding and shared-marketing arrangement in the markets around the world where the vast bulk of Scotch whisky is sold.

Remy gets £46.6 m m cash to help in its debt-reduction programme. It will continue to distribute Macallan in several overseas markets, notably the US. Remy's own 9.4 per cent stake in Highland has also appreciated steadily.
But Highland has certainly had the bet-

ter of the deal. Highland gave Remy a 12.7 per cent stake in October 1990 when they were worth around 250p a share. It now doubles its original stake at 152.5p each, a deep discount to last Friday's market price of 182p, and its stake in Remy is in the form of convertible bonds yielding 6 per cent.

Highland took over the distribution of the Macallan in the UK in 1994, and now has an increased incentive to promote it further. Highland's best-known blended whisky, the Famous Grouse, and the Macallan malt complement each other in the UK. Sales of Macallan are growing, with the help of a clever marketing campaign. But Macallan is not exactly a cash machine. Even at last night's price of 160p the shares yield barely I per cent and sell on 35 times annual earnings. Turnover and profits have fluctuated in a narrow range

in recent years.

A Highland bid for full control cannot be ruled out, of course. But the directors still hold up to 30 per cent of the shares, and Suntory, the Japanese drinks giant, speaks for a further 26 per cent, so a knock-out bid could prove very expensive. That said, Highland has combined a share structure which protects it from hostile outside bids with a policy of expansion and diversification which has substantially raised its profits and market share in the past decade. At 14 times earnings the shares are well worth holding.

### Simon Pincombe CITY DIARY

## Hambros puts lawyers through the hoops

Concern on the City croquet circuit that Hambros will soon be unbeatable. Rivals point out that the sport is taken very seriously at the blue-blooded merchant bank, which boasts not only its own croquet lawn but also

players of the highest calibre. The lawn is probably the only purpose-built croquet lawn in the City. That it is on the top of the multi-storey car park next to Hambros offices, overlooking the Tower of London, is a bonus. Directly above the Docklands Light Railway, it provides easy access by all forms of transport (or would if the DLR could be relied on).

The lawn has seen many a City confrontation. Hambros often challenges fellow institutions, not least the law firm Cameron Markby Hewitt, which is next door. But there have been dark mutterings from the lawyers about a "ringer", a highly accom-plished championship-level

My inquires are directed towards the "director in charge of croquet" who, unfortunately, is unavailable for comment. No doubt practising on the lawn.

Two senior people at Orange, the mobile phone company heading for flotation, are really backpackers who have yet to complete their wanderings. Hans Snook, the managing director, left Canada in 1983 for a twoyear world trip with his wife. However, he only managed six months through Southeast Asia before arriving in Hong Kong and a job with Young Generation, the computer network and paging group, which later sold part of its business to Orange's owners, Hutchison.

Graham Howe, the finance director, did much the same thing. Only he started in 1990 and arrived via the trans-Siberian route and



To the Grosvenor House Hotel where Clive Anderson (above) was in biting form at the annual awards extravaganza of International Financing Review (the magazine for all your bond requirements). "Never miss an issue," quipped the raconteur as he began the roll of honour. Unfortunately, the news that the "borrower of year" category had been won by the Kingdom of Sweden was more than Mr Anderson could conceptually grasp. "Narrowly pipping the Duchess of York," he guffawed before dissolving into an attack of near-hysteria.

books on management techniques comes the most plausible explanation yet for the cause of the Third World debt crisis. Monkey Business (Gower, £25) has been writ-ten by Gary Johnson, the marketing director of the never-knowingly-undersold British Biotech (you will recall the shares went through £25 recently on the "cure for cancer" story). Mr Johnson comes from a science background and is of the firm belief that we "are equipped with the evolutionary wisdom of the cavemen".

Among the rash of new

One of our problems, according to Mr Johnson, is that we tend to form habits a shortcut by which "the brain bypasses the limited processing capacity of the concious mind", It was habit, he claims, that led to disasters like the Third World debt crisis when bank managers went on making in-

sanely unsafe loans subconsiously. "Habits free the consious mind for daydreaming," notes the author. There you have it in a nutshell.

Manhattan dentist. Paul Rotwein, is arrested and charged with performing an unusual line in bridging work. Aetna, the leading US insurer, is not at all amused to find it has paid \$3,462 for three sessions on one of its clients. Mainly because Priscilla LaPolla was dead at the time. Mr Rotwein, who lives on the 39th floor of New York's prestigious Chrysler building, is charged with fraudulently billing the insurance company and with

other fraudulent offences all, oddly enough, on public school teachers Opening Ms LaPolla's

mail, her niece was horrified to find her still undergoing dental treatment from beyond the grave.

### Premium income plunges at L&M

NIC CICUTTI

underlined yesterday by London & Manchester, as it revealed that total new premium income fell 28 per cent to £23.8m in the year to the end of

The company said a large part of the decline was caused by a 30 per cent drop in single-pre-mium income, largely because it was forced to pull out of the guaranteed income bond rupted business.

David Hubbard, chairman, said: "A key strategy in our life company is the merger of our home service and Directions sales channels to form a unified, employed sales force. This process has disrupted our new business efforts but is a central plank of our strategy to write only quality business at acceptable cost.

"Success is already apparent

But London & Manchester in improved levels of retention admitted that reorganising its [policyholders who keep paying The problems facing insurers still providing old-style home service division, which ex-still providing old-style home ists largely to collect premiums, premiums to the company]." In service to their clients were with its sales channel, had dis- nual income rose slightly compared to previous years.

Mr Hubbard said he was also cheered by proposed changes from the insurers' watchdog, the Personal Investment Authority, to lift the regulatory burden on home service staff who do not engage in complicated sales procedures.

"This positive and constructive outcome creates a stable background from which we can now move forward," he added.

## Farnell Electronics shares suspended

TOM STEVENSON City Editor

Farnell Electronics, the Yorkshire-based electronics distributor, asked for its shares to be suspended yesterday at 679p, pending an unspecified announcement

The move followed an article in the Yorkshire Post, suggesting the £926m company was poised to make an acquisition which would substantially increase its size.

The company refused to comment further on its plans yesterday but a spokesman be made within a couple of

Índustry-watchers were un. surprised by the prospect of a deal from Farnell, which has grown fast over the past three vears to become one of the world's largest electronic dis-

Only two years ago, 90 per cent of Farnell's business was in the UK, but following the acquisition of Multicomponents. a rival supplier, it now makes 40 per cent of its sales overseas.

As a result of that deal Farneli has become the world's eighth largest component distributor.

Recent moves in Singapore

and the US were seen as toeholds in potentially very lucrative markets. Turnover at the highly successful company doubled between 1993 and 1995 from

£254m to £514m while profits moved ahead during the same period from £41.6m to £59.2m. When the company announced another record set of figures last October, analysts

questioned what the company

ing cash pile.

ended the period with over £70m of cash, representing 38 per cent of shareholders funds. With interest rates falling, the pressure was on the company to find a way to use the funds to expand its successful catalogue-based distribution

Like rival Electrocomponents, with whom it has tied up 80 per cent of the home mar-

could do with its fast-increas- ket, Farnell has flourished on the trend for customers to pay Despite spending £37m on acquisitions during the first half of the year, Farnell still the trend for customers to pay slightly over the odds in return for a first rate, prompt distribution service. Unusually for a pay slightly over the odds in return for a first rate, prompt distribution service. wholesaling operation Farnell's catalogue business has margins in the high teens.

The formula has also succeeded overseas, where markets are more fragmented and less sophisticated

Australia and France are becoming substantial businesses, and Farnell is moving into the key US and Far East

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## New questions for Germany

The leak yesterday of the new forecast by the German government that growth this year would be only 1.5 per cent coincided with tough decisions at Daimler-Benz over its Fokker affiliate in the Netherlands. The latter has both symbolic and practical importance, and follows Daimler-Benz's decision to dismember its loss-making consumer products subsidiary, AEG.

It is symbolic in the sense that Germany's largest manufacturing company is now prepared to walk away from failure, rather than commit more resources into trying to turn things round. And it is practical in that this not only throws out of work people who might have assumed a few years ago that they had reasonable job security; it demonstrates to others once again that German companies are unable to offer job security.

That affects the former piece of news, the downgrading of German growth prospects, for the greater the sense of job insecurity in Germany (or for that matter, the Netherlands) the greater the resistance among German consumers to go out and spend. These dynamics the fact that worsening job prospects cut consumption which in turn cuts final demand which in turn is likely to lead to further job cuts - suggest that even the 1.5 per cent forecast may prove over-optimistic. Put it this way: the forecast is more likely to be under-shot than over-shot, which means that the former West Germany is expected to grow at only 1 per cent, with the faster growth

being all in the east. This downgrading of German growth prospects has already led to several lines of debate. One is the implications for Germany's ability to meet the Maastricht convergence criteria. for growth at that level will lead to an increase in the budget



**ECONOMIC VIEW** HAMISH McRAE

ready at 3.6 per cent of GDP. To tighten fiscal policy in nearrecession would be deeply unpopular and perhaps even counter-productive since it would slow growth further.

A second line of debate concerns the monetary implica-tions: the extent to which the Bundesbank will eventually be forced to drop interest rates. and the impact on its neighbours if it is tardy in so doing. But I think there is another

and ultimately more important issue - yes, even more important than Maastricht - which is the extent to which Germany is

vice sector is smaller than that of the UK, France or Italy, but it is not so different from that of other European economies. In services which are not internationally traded, such as retailing, the quality of output
- in terms of the level of con-

package holidays or of telecommunications, where again Germany's service industries have failed to move with the times.

### The brilliant companies created in the 1950s and 1960s are now middle-aged, and are not being

al changes in re-orienting its economy away from manufacof the Daimler-Benz growth ob the shift. So Germany can cut, but the financial imperative to do so had become overwhelm-

venience to the customer and the hours at which service is available - is significantly lower than that of most other developed nations. There are other examples of inefficiency, such as the cost of

replaced at an adequate pace

making the necessary structurturing and towards services. The downsizing and refocussing viously represents one side of ing. Can it grow?
I do not think it is possible to

give a satisfactory answer to this at this stage, but I do think it is possible to set the stage. It is important to distinguish between services which are international traded and those which are not. Of course Germany can develop new service industries for the domestic market. Its ser-

But in those services which are internationally traded, it is harder to see inefficiencies. Take finance: the explosive growth of the German banks abroad, buying top UK mer-chant banks like Kleinwort and Morgan Grenfell, shows a willingness and ability to play out from the domestic base and use home-generated money to push their way into the global marketplace. It is very impressive.

The weaknesses come in two main areas. One is the areas in which, for social or linguistic reasons, Germany has historically found difficult to be competitive. An obvious example is tourism, with foreigners reluceducation, which takes up to six years to lift students to the level which the British university system does in three.

More serious, because it is growing so fast, is the situation in the entertainment industries. The problem is not just that foreigners do not watch Germa films; Germans do not watch them either, and half the films made in Germany are never shown to a paying audience. It is Germany's failure to develop exports in this sort of "soft" industry which accounts for the fact that it has the second largest deficit (after Japan) on trade in

intellectual property. The other area of weaknes is entrepreneurship. Our own experience shows how the key generator of jobs is the private sector service industries: tiny companies thinking of new services to sell both at home and abroad. It is not just a problem

of new company creation, though that is a large part of it. It is not just a problem of the lack of growth in self-employ ment, which is exceptionally low by UK standards. It is equally that the companies founded by the post-war generation tend to be in manufacturing, and face the same squeeze on costs as their larger cousins. In the past, when large companies in Germany have downsized, any labour shed has been picked up by smaller ones. That is not happening this time.

So the structural problem is in part a generational problem. The brilliant companies created or revived in the 1950s and 1960s are now middle-aged, and they are not being replaced, or rather not at an adequate pace. Creating the new industries takes an element of discomfort, even fear. Things like those growth figures or the plight of Daimler-Benz supply IN BRIEF

#### Internet service provider plans float

The Internet service provider Easynet yesterday announced plans to float on the Alternative Investment Market in March. Easynet, formed in August 1994, offers PC users and business customers more than 90 per cent UK coverage via dial-up lines at local rates. and also access to the Internet via ISDN and leased lines. Two directors of Easynet were also the co-founders of the first Internet rafe where customers can browse the Internet as they eat and drink.

#### MEPC secures price cut on property trust

MEPC has secured an £8m reduction in the purchase price of Naput, the US property unit trust. Naput, whose portfolio includes regional shopping malls and an open-air shopping centre, will cost £178m, including £102m of debt, against an originally agreed £186m. MEPC also announced a \$73m settlement of a Californian insurance claim following earthquake damage two years ago. Lord Blakenham, chair- 📢 man, said talks were under way with interested parties on the proposed sale of the property company's European portfolio.

#### Alpha Airports buys Sri Lankan operator

Alpha Airports is buying 60 per cent of Orient Lanka, the airport duty free operator at Bandaranaike International Airport, from the government of Sri Lanka. The partnership gives it an exclusive 10-year concession to operate the duty free retailing at the airport. Alpha will pay £12m on completion and it has an option to mop up the rest of the shares in three years' time.

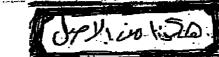
#### Berisford 'on target for growth'

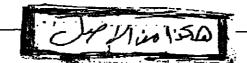
John Sclater, chairman of Berisford International, told the company's annual meeting yesterday that it was on target for earnings growth this year. Trading was in line with forecasts in the three months to December. Welbilt, the commercial food service equipment business – which accounts for 80 per cent of profits - enjoyed 12 per cent sales growth. Magnet's sales in the first quarter rose 2.7 per cent on a like-for-like basis.

#### Restructuring knocks American Brands

After a year of major restructuring, American Brands saw fourthquarter net income fall 43 per cent to \$154m from \$269m. The comparative includes a charge of \$202m for discontinued operations. Minus the charge, earnings on an operating basis were \$471m.

	and a grade of			
	Ternover £	Pro-tax €	EPS	Dividend
Lecus Republicani (1)	2,89m (2.09m)	0.11m (0.05m)	0.8p (1.1p)	의 (-)
ingens (F)	4,27m (3.77m)	-1.43m (-0.76m)	-168p (-90p)	Dil (Inil)
lertiage Bathrooms (i)	7.35m (6.14m)	1.2m (1.0m)	5.3p (4.4p)	0.5p (-)
ander Scottists Bank (F)	-(-)		9.7p (7.6p)	5.0p (4.1p)
obs: Marzies (I)	828m (575m)		3p (7.6p)	4 Bp (4.6p)
Saville Berdon (I)	-(-)	2.8m (3.1m)	1.889 (2.080)	1.3n /1.1m





## market report/shares

DATA BANK FT-SE 100 3,754.2 +5.8 FT-SE 250 4,078.2 +4.6 FT-SE 350 1,861.5 + 2.7SEAQ VOLUME

686.2m shares. 44,364 bargains Gilts Index 96.2 -0.02 SHARE SPOTLIGHT



Banks, Retail

News of Orange flotation boosts Footsie to fresh peak

day - but only just, as share prices came off the boil in late afternoon dealings. The FT-SE 100 share index, which spurtthe slowest rate of growth for ed 15.5 points at the opening bell, closed 5.8 higher at an all-time high of 3.754.2.

Leading equities were given a flying start by Friday night's 60 point surge on Wall street, and confirmation that Orange, the mobile phone network owned by British Aerospice and Hutchison Telecom, will float on the market in March. Orange is likely to be valued at more than £2.5bn, and gain entry automatic entry to the FT-SE 100 index. BAe shares climbed 12p to 888p. Vodafone, a chief rival to Orange and a

Fresh records were set yester-

Footsie constituent, gained 5p to 231.5p. The continued rumbling of takeover speculation also helped to keep the market in positive territory. Scant regard was paid to the latest gross domestic product figures, showing an expected 0.4 per cent rise in the fourth quarter in 1995 -

almost three years.

More than 685 million shares went through the books, spread across a high number of trades - in excess of 44,000 at the final count.

Lloyds Chemists, which not-up on last week's agreed bid from Unichem, advanced a further 11p to 420p. Unichem, however, slipped 7.5p to 253p as the rumour that Gene of Germany may mount a rival bid intensified. Institutional investors have

been heavy buyers of Lloyds shares since the bid was launched. Mercury Asset Management has bought 1.9 million Lloyds shares in nine separate transactions at prices ranging from 373p to 402p.

Deutsche Morgan Grenfell,

advisers to Gehe, are said to

have approached Samuel Mon-

MARKET REPORT JOHN SHEPHERD

same information that has been provided to Unichem. A spokesman for Gehe vesterday declined to comment on the German company's intentions, but said 'we are thinking about

a number of projects". Yesterday's share price movements resulted in the value of Unichem's bid terms falling to slightly less than 415p per Lloyds share – a 1.3 per cent discount to the market price.

Some dealers said, however, that any move by Gehe, own-er of the AAH pharmaceutical wholesaling business, would not happen until after Unichem produced its formal offer document.

Meanwhile, the curtain comes down today on the epic battle between Granada, up 2p to 696p, and Forte, off 3p to 373p. Volume trading in Forte – which looks set to lose its

independence - was again heavy with more than 13 million changing hands. The Savoy group, which will almost certainly be put into play with a Granada victory, closed 3p better at £11.33p. The price has now improved more than 200p in a fortnight. Similarly, Alpha Airports, 25 per cent owned by Forte, rose 3p to

Trading in Standard Chartered was also brisk at 5 million. Talk of a possible takeover bid from NatWest, 2p firmer at 657p, pushed Standard up 5p 3p to value the bank at slightly more than £6bn. Elsewhere in financials, Prudential slipped 4p to 430p on renewed gossip that it may mount an ac-

gossip that it may mount an acquisitive strike against Lloyds Abbey Life, 2p better at 483p. Yorkshire Tyne-Tees Television remained in the speculative bid frame, rising 19p to a fresh high of 778p. Bid rumours mainly home in on MAL, a penny firmer at 341p. Select TV, in the acquisitive sights of Flexterch and Pearson, held steady tech and Pearson, held steady at 29p despite news that Mer-cury Asset Management had sold 250,000 at the same price, cutting its holding to 1.188m. The bid price, when it comes, is said to be pitched at around 33p. Flextech fell 2p to 442p, while Pearson gained 4p to

Asda dipped 3p to 108p as rchie Norman banked £1.85m from cashing in share gossip about Mr Norman pur-suing his long-harboured aspi-Iceland, weak of late, were in demand and finished 5p better at 160p with more than 4 mil-

Highland Distillers met with unfavourable reaction to its £46.6m purchase of a 26 per cent stake in Macallan Glenlivet. Shares in Highland, which said the deal would dilute earnings this year, fell op to 320p, and Macallan dropped 18p to

160p. On the USM there were signs that the overhang of 6 million shares from a single seller a couple of weeks ago of Middlesex Holdings had finally been cleared. Shares held at 8p with volume put at 6.11 million. Tepnel Life Sciences traded 1p higher at 37p at one stage on news that Kit Madden, formerly of Wellcome, had joined

Share Price Data

The Independent Index

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other details: or Ex rights x Ex-dividend xa Ex all u United Securities Market's Suspended pp Partly Pald pm Nil Pald Shares.

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Seer. Simply dial 0891 123 335, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest

one of the AIM's best success stories. Floated in August at 40p, the shares yesterday climbed another 13p to a peak 158p. The biggest of many trades was for 400,000 shares at the closing price. There is talk that the company will soon sell further rights to its Internet telephone system, following the £1m sale earlier this month of market-ing rights in Austria, Ger-many, and Switzerland.

☐ Keep an eye on Holliday Chemical Holdings. There was a single deal for 155,000 shares at 164.5p each yesterday, amid a rumour that Bayer was poised to launch a bid for the speciality chemical company. Shares trade at 164p, valuing Holliday, which recently surprised the market by bolding its interim dividend payment at 2p, at more than £170m.

Chemia

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Research

Food Manufacturers standing around in Beer Character and Beer Characte

Water Shares Electricity Shares High Street Banks ndependent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0891 123 333. For assistance, call our helpline 0771 873 4375 (830em - 530pm). Market leaders: Top 20 volume 680000 NFC 1000000 Libyds TSB 980000 BT 830000 BP 760000 580000 Scal Hudio-Elect. 500000 FT-SE 100 Index hour by hour 11.00 3758.5 up 10 12.00 37586 up 10.2 "there's no De la company de SOURCE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE The second secon for 24 hour telephone banking 1995/98 | Herbit | He THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY O | Description | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 15 605 590 597 597 597 590 604 635 635 635

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Comment Periods	MART Govern	Section   Sect	Engin Star Marrigant   2006   2849   Scottish Anticable Managers   5307   5827   FM Anticapers   5307   5827   FM Anticapers   5307   5827   FM Anticapers   5307   5827   FM Anticapers   5308   5309   53

Chilin 150

## Danoli inspires another Irish pilgrimage

Racing

t History

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War Reign

新发展 1946 连续

**GREG WOOD** 

For Ireland's travel agents, this will surely be a week to remember. The country's racing fans - in other words, almost the entire population - awoke yesterday morning to the memory of Danoli's exceptional comeback race on Sunday, and the news that the nation's favourite horse had returned from the Irish Champion Hurdle at Leopardstown in good health. For many, personal attendance to see him contest the Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham in March will be little short of a sacred duty.

Danoli should be joined at the Festival by Montelado, who was also the subject of encouraging reports after finishing fourth at Leopardstown on his own much-delayed return to hurdling. Inevitably, though, it was the latest bulletin on Danoover after a knee injury sus- the Champion Hurdle."

tained in last year's Aintree Hurdle, which attracted partic-ular attention on both sides of the Irish Sea.

"Muscle-wise and body-wise. Danoli is a bit weary and sore." Tom Folcy, his trainer, said yesterday. But it is nothing worse than you would expect for a horse running for the first time after a lay-off, and nothing that one day off won't put right. I was thrilled with him yesterday and he will run next in the Red Mills Trial Hurdle at Gowran Park on 17 February, and we can even

start thinking of Cheltenham." Pat Flynn was just as positive in assessing Montelado's performance. I was not disheartened even in the slightest," he said. "I said beforehand that he would need the run and that's just what happened, and Adrian [Maguire] said he couldn't handle the ground. He was heaten at Leopardstown the year he won at Cheltenham [in the Supreme Novices' Hurdle li, whose career seemed to be and he will now go straight to

Danoli and Montelado were the entries for Alriffa, Celestial just two names among a remarkable of strong entry for the Champion Hurdle yesterday, (12 months ago, only 24 horses were entered). "There was always going to be a big entry with so many question marks over the major contenders, but we certainly did not anticipate so many," Edward Gillespie, Cheltenham's managing director,

Good Flat performers inluding Kribensis, Royal Gait and Alderbrook have taken the chance to take the top prize in Champion in recent years, so their first season over timber, al- which has not been overlooked

to retire at the age of 88 after over 50 years with a licence.

Mother's 100th winner, Gay

O'Donoghue trained Nickel

Key and Celestial Choir are in-

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Mouse Bird (Leicester 1.30) NB: Cardinal Rule (Leicester 1.00)

Two of the year's best novices, Castle Sweep and See More

**Grand National-winning trainer retires** 

nings of the Portland Handicap.

The Reigate trainer's last run-

ner was also a winner - Myjin-

said: "Jack doesn't say much but

Jack O'Donoghue, the doyen of distant past and he sent out Hel-the training ranks, has decided distant past and he sent out Hel-lo Mister to win the last two run-

Coin to win the 1951 Grand National and saddled the Queen Ka at Lingfield on 6 January.

His assistant, Andy Eustance.

Record, in 1964. However, his he loves to reminisce about old

achievements were not all in the times. Hopefully, plenty of peo-

2.30 BROOK CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDKAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,600 added 2m Penalty Value £2,031

3.00 EBF TATTERSALLS (IRELAND) MARIES NOVICE CHASE (QUAL-FIER) (CLASS E) £4,500 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £3,111

BYTEKY (CLASS E.) £4,500 2m 47 110y0s Penarty Value £3,111
233P-13 BEAUCHARP GRACE (18) (D) (Nos S Bramel) Mis S Bramel 7 11.4 \_\_Mr K Whalas (5)
0F-P FLYNYS GRIL (80) (Robert & Ecoboth Hisching) Mis J Bramel 7 11.4 \_\_Mr K Whalas (5)
0007 JUST FOR A LAUGH (681) (Miss Joanna Needham) ) Needham 9 10.12 \_\_\_ 6 Hogan (5)
0402-03 MANTHA'S DAUGHTER (82) (MF) M Missi-Thomas) 7 Forster 7 10.12 \_\_\_ A Thomston
530P-30 PEARL'S CRIDEC (18) U C McConnocine) J McConnocine 9 10.12 \_\_\_ B Powell
20-P066 ROSE-B (12) (Damant Precision Engineering Ltd) R Strongs 5 10.12 \_\_\_ B Powell
1230-F0 SECOND CALL (LID) (M Want-Thomas) 7 Forster 7 10.12 \_\_\_\_ JR Kewnagh
20-P40 MARENGALE (19) Mis R Vaughan N Twister-Davies 7 10.12 \_\_\_\_ C Lignedlyn
44/IP10 TOO SHARP (389) (Str Archory Scott) Miss H Anight 8 10.12 \_\_\_\_\_ Joaham
— 9 declared —

TING: 3-1 Second Call, 7-2 Bassechown Grace, 9-2 Martha's Doughthe, 5-1 Too Starn, 6-1 Times

BETTING: 3-1 Second Call, 7-2 Beauchamp Grace, 9-2 Martha's Daughter, 5-1 Too Sharp, 6-1 Tamer

SECOND CALL was a faller in both her chases at 1993-94, being clear when she departed two out at Modingham in the first of them. She landed hurdle races on her first two outings last season but toppled over two out in inchantioch's race when revening to fences at kempton in November. Second Call ran as though in need of the race against labber The Kirbber at Warwick but she at least got round, which will have helped to restore her confidence. Stablemate Marthan's Daughter, helf-sister to Marthan's Son, will be tacking fences for the first time in public. Runner-up to Miss Heggis at Stratford in April, Marthan's Daughter was having her first run since when down the field to Dark Nightingale at Stratford in October and was probably unsuited by the fast ground when favourite and beaten 40 lengths into timb by Meritena at Humangdon. Beauchamp Grace had been off the course since March when winning over this distance at Nepham before Christmas. She was 24 lengths off the winner when thard to lidio's Lady at Towcester (2m 6f) last time but will be happier back at today's shorter journey. Selection: SECOND CALL

3.30 DANIEL LAMBERT HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000

added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £3,444

- 21 declared -BETTING: 6-1 Twice A Night, 8-1 Secret Four, Simply, 9-1 How's It Goln, 10-1 Devah, Neithgrify, 12-1 Davi Scand, Lead Vocalist, 14-1 Grace Card, 16-1 Plat Top, 20-1 others

12-1 Dari Sound, Lead Vocalist, 14-1 Strace Card, 16-1 Hail Top, 20-1 others

FORM GUIDE

Twice successful from four attempts last term, SIMPLY had been off the course since May before running on strongly to defeat Mr Monarty a couple of lengths at Southwell last month. He goes off an 8th higher mark today but can supplement the gains with Tony McCoy again in the saddle. Derab finished a 20-length fourth of a big field behind Buckhouse Boy at Warwick in his first race since 1993. He must improve with that run under his beit and should have a say in the finish. Twice A Night, who won a maden hurdle at Utionater last term, had the third eight lengths away when running Plunder Bay to a head over course and distance last month and was a good third behind Preentie Gri and Jaddin at Lingfeld, Grace Card, a 10-year-old, is in bitness for the first time. A useful performer a few seasons ago when with Mary Reveley, he has run third in two of his three starts this seasons, the latest behind Cool Cown and Storm Drum in a three miler on this course. Netbegrithy has found one too good in both races this season, going under six lengths to Nordansk at Lingfield before Christinas and by the same margin betind Owen's Quest at Wetherby. He could again figure. Secret Four in a consistent type but he had luck on his side at Tauriton last time, being presented with the race when Sports View, who was several lengths clear, unseated at the final flight. He hasn't raced since and is on 12st. Selection: SiMPLY

4.00 STONESBY NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,200 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £3,328

3301 ALL ON 129 (N PERCENTIAL) PROMISSION 5 11 ( ) William 5 10 ( ) William 5 ( ) Promo 6 11 6 William 5 ( ) Willi

POLY SCREEN (The Or Hell Figures C Smath 5 11 6

OPS RIVER THRUST (80) (Impligationing Partnerships 0 Sherwood 6 11 6

OZS SHAULOW RIVER (29) (Richard Collings R Collings 511 6

1 SMEEDIN (48) (C) Ruis Angela Beard B McMairon 5 11 6

SHEETHMURE I I W Waddram) Mas L Waddram 7 11 6

23-3 SILK WORD (27) (Silemon Recing Partnership I Schwards 7 11 6

CONOMPRISH (38) RP R Williams) Mis A Hewatt 7 11 1

OSF FURLEYER ROSE (6) (T I France H Rousel 7 11 1

HONEWERD WOOD I R Brown I Brown 8 11 1

P MULTIWARE (15) All Stanters Mis S S Remail 7 11 1

### AUG ST ### AUG PR ### AUG PR

though an appearance in one of the Festivals novice events may by Hills, who quote him at 33-1 for the Champion. be a more realistic alternative.
The £170,000 purse for the

Champion has also attracted entries from France and Germany. Wacio, successful at Pau on his two most recent starts, is trained by Jacques Ortet, who in numerical terms at least was France's most successful jumps trainer last year. Wacio has earned more than £285,000 in a career which has also brought Group-race success on the Flat in Turkey and Austria, a fact

ple will come over and see him

and talk. He was very grateful

to his long-serving secretary, Miss Wells, who is also in her 80s

and recently suffered a stroke.

They made a good team."
Some of O'Donoghue's hors-

es, including Hello Mister, will

be trained in the same village

MARKET RASEN

HYPERION 1.40 Alcian Blue 2.10 Slingsby 2.40 Bendor Mark 3.10 Sticky Money 3.40 ZAJIRA (nap) 4.10 Lord

■ Right-hand, sharp, undulating circuit. Run-In of one farlong.
■ Course is E of Lown on A631. Market Rusen station Im. ADMISSION; 'Ulu 5 1; 'I ratues, like S. 8 (OAPs who are members of 
course's habitec Club 5.4; Siver Ring 55 (Jubilec Club OAPs 5:1.50).
CAR PARE prices areas 52 remounter force.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Maneree (3.40) won

at Nottingham on Wednesday. LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Sticky Money (3.10) & Asktar

(4.10) sent 250 miles by M Pipe from Nicholashayne, Devon; Sabu-tense (4.10) sent 307 miles by J Poulton from Lewes, E Sussex.

- 10 declared -BETTING: 9-4 Hatches Boy, 3-1 Balleus Bay, 4-1 Cherry Stone, 11-2 Al-cian Blue, 7-1 Ardent Love, 10-1 Kindskoola, 12-1 Bird Watcher, 20-1

2.10 ERF NOVICE HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 3f 110yds

BETTING: 3-1 Stingsby, 9-2 Coole Hill, 5-1 Speaker Weatherill, 7-1 Corbies, Wordy's Wind, Tara Razabler, 8-1 Tweedswood, 12-1 others

2.40 'PAY & PLAY GOLF' NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500 added 2m 4f

1.50 El Volador 2.20 Bells Of Holland 2.50 lkhti-

raa 3,20 Wingnut 3,50 Almuhtaram 4,20 Dahiyah

GOING: Standard. STALLS: inside, except 6f (outside).

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for 6f.

Left-hand, sharp course (Equiunck surface).

Course is SE of town on BED28. Lengield station (served by london Victorial algoriths course. ADMISSION: All enclosures 59.

CAR PARE: Club S3; remainder free.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Hegally Yours (2.20); Wingan

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Nigel's Lad (3.50) has been sent C70 miles by P Hasiam from Middleham, N Yorks; Tartan Seen (1.50) sent 236 miles by M Brittain from Warthill, N Yorks.

1.50 WESTMENSTER CLARKING STAKES (CLASS E) £4,500 added 1m 4f

- 7 declared -SETTING: 7-4 El Volacior, 2-1 Tarius Gens, 4-1 Duvees, 10-1 Miss Casi-tal, Northern Trial, 14-1 Rose Chine, 20-1 Bobby Sine

2.20 VAUXHALL SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £3,250 added 3YO 1m

BETTPNS: 9-4 Reviandsons Charm, 5-2 Bells Of Holland, 7-1 Multi Franchise, 8-1 Florrie'zs, 12-1 Dissellins, Quiumessa, 14-1 others

2.50 TOWER HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,450

Alleimum weight: 7st 10th. True handicap weight: On So Handy 6st 8th. BETTENE: 5-2 Bondloot, 4-1 Coloridge, 9-2 Mobileon, 5-1 Nymin, 11-2 M 8-1 Sir Thomas Beechant, 10-1 others

3.20). Winners in the last seven days: None

05460-0 ROSE CHEME (18) J L Harns 4 8 0 .....

52542-5 BENREET (17) (C) R Amstrong 5 10 0 ......

LINGFIELD

by Ted Powell.

Fortune

by Hills, who quote him at 331 for the Champion.

Germany's contender is
Telasco, offered at 50-1 by the
same firm, who is another uscful Flat campaigner but has run
just twice over hurdles. Punters
will have a better idea of his
chance after Saturday's Cleeve
Hurdle at Cheltenham, which
will also give Telasco valuable
experience of British obstacles.

The most notable absentee
from the entries for the Stayers'
Hurdle, also published yesterday, is Dorans Pride, last year's
winner. Michael Hourigan's
gelding suffered a near-fatal
bout of colic in December, but
with 51 names still engaged, the
race does not lack strength in
depth. Algan, the 1994 King
George VI Chase winner, Cyborgo, last year's runner-up to
Dorans Pride, and Saturday's
Haydock winner Better Times
Ahead are all on the list.

Seserit Champion Hurdle (Cheltenham, 12
March: Entries: Absalom's Lady ttraned by
D Elsworth), Adeptoon (R Basiey), Antfa (R
Hannon), Arcte Thunder (Lady Hernes), Anes
Gul (P Flynn, Ith). Atours (D Elsworth), Bal
a port of the Stayer's
Anes of Champions, Hurdle (Cheltenham, 12
March: Entries: Absalom's Lady ttraned by
D Elsworth), Adeptoon (R Basiey), Antfa (R
Hannon), Arcte Thunder (Lady Hernes), Anes
Gul (P Flynn, Ith). Atours (D Elsworth), Bal
Montelando (P Flynn, Ith). Atours (D Elsworth), Bal
Montelando (P Flynn, Ith). Atours (D Elsworth). Bal
Montelando (P Flynn, Ith). Atours (D Elsworth). Bal
March: Entries: Absalom's Lady ttraned by
D Elsworth), Aldestroon (R Basiey), Antfa (R
Hannon), Arcte Thunder (Lady Hernes), Anes
Gul (P Flynn, Ith). Atours (D Elsworth). Bal
Montelando (P Flynn, Ith). Atours (P Johnshell (P Johnshell

- 10 declared BETTING: 3-1 Chief Raider, 7-2 Solba, Dissington Dene, 6-1 Artic Wings, 7-1 Bender Mark, 8-1 Gorby's Hyth, 10-1 Old Ale, 12-1 others

3.10 RACEDAY STAFF HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,200 added 3m

P51113 - REMRY CONE (236) (D) D Nicholson 7 11 13 - R Johnson (4)

BETTING: 7-4 Sticky Money, 2-1 Heavy Cone, 11-4 Yes Man, 8-1 Britannia Wills, 16-1 Bold Ambriton

3.40 ERIC AND LUCY PAPWORTH HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 2m 4f 2P11-6F BOSTON ROVER (10) (C) (D) 0 Sternar 11 11 12 ...

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight April City 8st 12th.
BETTINE: 3-1 Maneree, 100-30 Zejfra, 9-2 Boston Rover, 5-1 Astings, 81 Rapples, 10-1 Mo Ichi Do, 25-1 April City

4.10 RE-ARRANGE MEETING OPEN STANDARD NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,650 added

ASHTAR (USA) M Pipe 6 11 5. D Bridgerater
CORRIGATION Mongan 5 11 5. R Manney (5)
DARK ORCINE MONGAN 5 11 5. D. Leeley
FALCON'S BMASE (USA) (40) K Mongan 5 11 5. A S Smith
MARNIES WOUF R Title 5 11 5. Ahrs F Needbarn
SMPLE SHOON D Micholson 6 11 5 R Johnson (3)
TRIMNOSS S Bed 5 11 5. N Smith
WESTERLY J FISCERIA 5 11 5. W Dwan
Held ROGENSON J Macker 5 11 0. E Headward (3)
MEADOW PROODS M W Easterly 4 10 8 J Driscoll
ELITE BLISS M Camacho 4 10 3 L Wyer
SABOTELISE J Poulson 4 10 3 L O'Hara
- 16 declared -

2m 1f 110yds

BETTING: 7-2 Lord Fortune, 5-1 Plenning Gein, 8-1 Achter, 7-1 Simple Sknow, 8-1 Akmin, 10-1 Falcou's Intege, Westerly, 12-1 others

3.20 CHELSEA HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,700 added 3YO 6f

32400- ELFIN QUEEN (129) J.L Hams 9 7...

6 24300-5 MUSIC MISTRESS (14) (C) J S Moore 9 2...

63620- PETITE ANNIE (63) T Mats 9 4\_

000-45 STRONG SLADE (39) J Wade 6 10 10 ...

Hockey BILL COLWILL

reports from Barcelona Great Britain Belarus

Great Britain remained on course for a place in the Atlanta Olympics when they confidently beat Belarus in their third game in the qualifying tournament yesterday, never looking back after a flying start of three goals in the opening 15 minutes. Unlike in their earlier games,

Britain maintained their concentration yesterday and, ai-

paved the way and when, three minutes later, Calum Giles cracked in a second, the game was as good as over.

Thompson, thriving in what became a rough, tough, physical game, forced his way down the left to score from a narrow angle for a comfortable 3-0 interval lead. The margin would have been considerably greater

aker, was delighted with the re-sult, although he conceded that he was disappointed with the

nents tomorrow, held India to an exciting goalless draw and currently lead the table. Today

IS A Lest usy.

GREAT BRITAIN: S Mason (Reading); J Wyatt (Reading), Soma Singa (Southgate); G
Fordham ( Hounstow), Kathir Takhber (Cannock), S Hargist (Hounstow); C Mayer (Cannock), J Shaw (Southgate), R Thompson
(Hounstow), J Laslett (Teddingon, capt), N
Thompson (Old Loughtonians). Substitutes
used: C Gles (Havard), H Hoskin (Reading),
D Hall (Guidford).

Results, Sporting Digest, page 23

FA CUP THEID-ROUND REPLAY Oldham Athletic v Barnsley (7.45). ANGLO-ITALIAN CUP SEMI-FINAL Ipswich v Port Vale (7.45)... ENDSLEIGH INSURA SECUND INVISION

Blackpool v Wyconsbe
Huti City v Brighton
Rotherhau v Bradford City
Wrestern v Bristol City
THEO DIVISION
Mansfield v Cambridge Utd (7.45)
Plymouth v Scusthorpe (7.45)
Scarborough v Rochetale
BELL'S SCOTTISE LEAGUE
PRESIDER DIVISION

11 30000-4 MISS CAROTTENE (10) 14 Rvan 8 5 .... 12 5304-06 WINGNUT (14) J Broger 8 1 . BETTING: 6-1 Balpare, No Sympathy, 7-1 Gracious Gretcio, 8-1 Susset Harbour, Wingout, Mystery Martifiae, 9-1 Mas Carottone, 10-1 others

3.50 ALBERT HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,450 added 1.m 2f 1 60020-2 SOUTH EASTERN FRED (12) (CD) H Collegadge 5 10 0 . 

- 14 decianed 
Minimum weight 7st 10th. True handlesp weight Wildfire 7st Sth.

BETTING: 4-1 Renown, 5-1 Bernard Seven, South Eastern Fred, 11-2 Almelidaram, 6-1 Access Adventurer, Tribal Peace, Wildfire, 10-1 others

4.20 HUNGERFORD APPRENTICES HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,700 added 7f 

00004-5 THICK AS THIEVES (17) (BF) Rorald Thompson 4.9 6 ... 536000- KING PARROT (220) (C) Lard Human(330n 8 9 6...

#### LEICESTER

1.00 Boss's Bank 1.30 Mouse Bird 2.00 Class Of Ninetytwo 2.30 Lord Glenvara

HYPERION 3.00 Beauchamp Grace 3.30 Twice A Night 4.00 What's Your Story (nb)

GOING: Chases — Good (Good to Soft in places), Hurdles — Soft (Heavy patches).

Right-hand, undulating course, Run-in of 25/byts.

Course is 2m SE of city off AC, Lehes-ter station (London, S. Panerus — Sheffleid line)

2m. ADMISSION: Chib 5.12, Tattersalls 58; Siber Ring 5.4 (accompanied under-16s free).

Free racecards, CAR PARK: Free, Silver Ring - 5.12 admits car and four occupants.

LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: Mrs J Pitman — 14 winners from 68 runners gives a success ratio of 29,7% and a loss to a \$1 level stake of \$8.61; D Nicholson — 12 winners, 17 runners, 25.6%, +5142.91; N Henderson — 6 winners, 17 runners, 25.6%, 55.06. LEADING JOCKETS: R Dmwoody — II winners, 58 rides, 19%, -525.16; A Magaire — 9 winners, 58 rides, 15.5%, -525.96; W Marston — 8 winners, 53 rides, 15.1%, +527.1;

I	C Llewellyn — 7 winners, 30 rides, 23,3%, +28,04. WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS, None. LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Secret Pour (1,30) has been sent 191 miles by Mrs S Williams from Mariansleigh, Devon; Mutawali (2,30) sent 191 mics by R Baker from Swedleigh, Devon.
ĺ	1.00 CROXTON PARK NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV I) £3,200

	_		water that there are a second	
ì	1	5-5412	ONVENTIMENTO (45) (CD) (BP) (B ) Wood) J Marios 5 11 11	F Huchoori
j	2	0-0	ALLEGRO PRONCE (14) (D.) Caro 6 11 5	D Golbad
Ì	3	11	BOSS'S BANK (18) (Mrs J Mould) D Nicholson 6 11 5	A March
i	4	164	BUSTER BOB (17) (Robert & Elizabeth Hitchins) Mrs J Pameir 6 11 5	W More
	- 5		CALDER KING (D Clarison) / L Byre 5 11 5	A P Me
	6	65	CARDONAL RULE (12) (Perer J Burch) J Edwards 7 11 5	
Į	7	20.023	INCULCATE (42) (Swen Rapine) C Weedon 5 11 5	. J.Oohou
1	8	60	WAYFARERS WAY (USA) (10) (Lady Tennanti N Henderson 5 11 5	M A Filtration
ı	9		MESS TUT (T 8:0) T 8:4 5 11 0	I Real
1	10	58	WORTH THE WAIT (14) () Watters) F Jordan 5 11 0	J Lock
Ì	11	444	COOL STEEL (11) IH R Hewiti) Mrs J Brown 4 10 7	E Callantian
ı	12	PP	ELPIDOS (10) (Mrs. Mara Wings) M Hammond 4 10 7	R Barri
ı	13	06	FANTASTIC PLEET (10) (Mess J S Doyle) Mess J S Doyle 4 10 7	5 Comen
	11		TAP ON TROTTEE of Council Complete / 40:2	D Valde

HETTING: 2-1 Boss's Bank, 5-1 Divertimiento, 11-2 Buston Bob, 6-1 Inculcate, 9-1 Carder King, 20-1 Wayforer's Way, 12-1 Cardinal Rule, 18-1 MSs Tut, Worth The Wait, 25-1 others
1995: meeting altendoned

Unbeaten in two bumpers, both at Towcester, BOSS'S BANK can make a winning start to his hurdling career. The six year-old came home by two and a half lengths from previous scorer Forest lyony before Christmas and landed cidds of 7-4 in a field of 17 last previous scorer Forest kory before Christmas and landed odds of 7-4 in a field of 17 last time. Boss's Bank certainty has the right credentals to do well at this game, being a son of Strong Gale and he comes form David Nicholson's yard, so will have been well schooled. Inculcable finished more than two lengths in front of Divertimiendo when they were second and fourth to Zephynus at Wannick in November and is 6th better off. However, Divertimientio has progressed enough since then to turn that form around. John Mickle's charge went in over course and distance next time and followed with a fluength second behind Crown Equency at Haydock. Best of the others might be Buster Bob, winner of Warwick bumper in November on his introduction and all the better for his hunding debut fourth behind El Rubio at Haydock 17 days ago. Selection: BOSS'S BANK

	<b>L.30</b>	CROXTON £3,200 ad	PARK ded 2n	NOVICE n Penalty	HURDLE Value £2	(CLASS ,790	E)	(DIV	1
1	4230-12	MOUSE BEED (5	91 (Osbert	Pierce) D Gand	lo#o 6 11 11			R Dumeo	0
יי		RADRAROM NA	on sees me	Mostaliai I Fit	Combi 5 11 5			M Cu	

į	1	1230-12	MOUSE BIRD (59) (Osbert Pierce) D Gandolfo 6 11 11	R Durrwoods
ľ	12		BARBARQUA (Marquesa de Moratalia) J FitzGerald 5 11 5	
ı	3	00-45	BLOND MOSS (64) (Miss L Wilson) J Heliens 6 11 5	
i	⊹	05	BRIGHT MOVEMBER (8) (T J Parrott) Mrs H Parrott 5 11 5	S Carran (3)
ì	5	P-0	CANOVAS HEART (48) (M J Osborne and Mrs J Woods; Bob Jones 7 11 5	V Smith
ı	6	50523-5-	FRONTAGER (USA) (519) (Charles Egenton & Partners) C Egenton 6 11 5	Osborne
ı	7	6	LAWFUL LOVE (38) (Mrs D E Andrews) T Donnelly 6 11 5	G Hogen (3)
ł	8		PALIAPOUR (68) (Mrs M Chancel N Chance 5 11 5	
ı	9		ROLFE (NZ) (10) (Stanley W Clarke) D Micholson 6 11 5	
ı	10		SMITTON STREAM (86) (M P Aldersey) G Yardley 6 11 5	
ı	11		CALL ME FLASH (17) (F Lipscomb) Mrs P Sty 4 10 7	
ı	12		KEEN TO THE LAST (FR) (47) (D & Allen & Nr S Baimer) M Hammond 4 16	
Ì	13	0	PEUTETRÉ (47) (R V Cirli) F Jordan 4 10 7	
i	14		RED HOT RISK (Mrs C D Buckland) S Campion 4 10 7	P <b>LE</b> cipley (3)

IMDUSE BIRD TOLOWED ITS 11-length Newton About victory on his responsariance last month with a 20-length second behind Killone Abbot in the Geny Feiden Hurdle on desperate ground at Newbury, where Triumph Hurdle winner Jussair was a head away third. Mouse Bird can come good again back in this company atthough Robbe could run him premy close cose getting 6th. Robbe, who was placed on the Flat in New Zealand, ran a promising first race over hurdles at finishing third behind Ashwell Boy and the odds-on Mack. The Krufe at Ascot ten days ago and must improve as a result of the experience. Chartle Egenton's French acquisition Frontager ran several times in his native country in 1904, hurdle natively bettern in a valuable search of should inthe in the surrounce of 1904, hurdle

	2.00	RABBIT HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £4,000 adde Penalty Value £3,236	ed 3
1	19291-1	KSLF#64Y CROSS (74) (C) (D) (A.) Thompson) J Pearce 8 12 0 Mcd	
2		SYLVER DARBENT (FR) (20) (M Musy) J Peromingo (Fr) 7 12 0 E D	anang.
-	000044	or see on MEMORYTHIN (SM) (I've) (Selection) 7 Freedom 7 11 9	18.0

ı	12	143-000	SATABLE DANGEAL (LEG) (50) (IN ANOV ) LEGGGINGS (LU 1 15 A """" F DANASA
ł	3	.00P11	CLASS OF NEWETYTWO (50) (D) (Lord Cadogan) T Forsier 7 11 8
l	2	Port-PO	SRAON JOSEPH (11) (D) (Ms G C McFerrari) T George 9 11 6T Jenks
ı	5	20/4P33	ANDROS PRINCE (8) (D) (A Zalimpulo) Mess A Embricos 11 11 6
ı	6	133-42	PENNEE PRODE (19) (Mrs W A Besumont) M Hernmond 9 11 2
ł	Ť	U4/U-F0	TWO STEP RHYTHEM (17) (Mrs R E Stocks) J McCormoche 12 11 1
ł	8	31P-P03	STEEPLE MCK (18) (D) (K Bishop) K Bishop 9 11 0B Posed
i	9	442/311	HRISH GENT (19) (The Modey Stud) P Beaumont 10 11 0R Supplie
	10	5P/6-4F0	PHODNICLUSTVE (13) (Mrs S A Bramell) Mrs S Bramell 9 10 12 Mr K Whether (5)
	11	54P1-5U	JENDEE (18) (The Avenue Racing Panneship) J Helians 8 10 8
l	12	244733	VICTORY ANTHEM (34) (P Gray Limited) P Carlie 10 10 6
	13	1233-4F	IMPECCABLE TRAING (17) (Mrs Carole Machell) O O'Neil 13 10 4
	14	SUP-063	SHULL SAOR (39) (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 9 10 1
	15	PSP 033	CARLINGFORD BELLE (50) (J L Needham) J Needham 10 10 0
	16	00/FO-P2	WILLE MAKET (35) (Old Berks Trees) R Philips 5 10 0

ı weight: 10st, True handicəp weight: Carlinglord Belle 9st 10th, Willie Makelt 9st : 5-2 Class Of Ninetytwo, 6-1 Pannine Pride, 7-1 Killiany Cross, 15-2 Irish Beni

Assuming Cross goes on the same mark as when he made a successful reappearance at Huntington almost 11 weeks ago but he is on 12st here and shoulders 20th more on this, his first appearance since. CLASS OF NINETYTMO, who gets 6th from the topweight, looks a better ber. Tim Forster's seven-year-old, successful in three of four comploted starts in hish point-to-points in 1995, was pulled up on he reappearance in a huntle race but comes here unbeaten after two chases, at Warrinck and at Ludiow, where he was not hard pressed to defeat Judicial Field five lengths with odds of 11-8 laid on. Further improvement can be expected and Tony McCoy, who was on board at Ludiow, attent takes the mount Desantine. Cliffinny Cross goes off the same mark as when he made a successful rea he was not hard pressed to Gereal Judicial herd like lengths with docs of 11-5 and on. Further improvement can be expected and Tony McCoy, who was on board at Ludiow, again takes the mount. Pennikse Pride was having only his second race this season when beaten so lengths by The Bud Club at Nottingham 19 days ago. He sures off the same mark here and might be the one who gives Classroom Ninetyowo most to do. French challenger Sylver Dergent won three chases and a hundle race in his native country in 1994. Selection: CLASS OF MINETYTWO

#### Diamond day for Maguire

Adrian Maguire reached a belated half century and completed a magnificent 1,835-1 ireble on Chicodari, Diamond Fort and Rainham at Warwick yesterday. Injury has held up his winning charge this season - he is 53 wins behind Tony McCoy in the jockeys' championshipbut he showed that his skills remain as sharp as ever.

"He's not bad that Adrian Maguire is he?,7 Ginger Mc-Cain, the trainer of the 33-1 winner Rainham, said. "This horse needed this as he'd lost his bottle a bit after two falls."

#### **NEWTON ABSOT** 1.30: 1. UNITED FRONT (D.O'Sulkan) 10-1: 2. Ambleside 16-1: 3. Holdingdose 11-2. 15 ran. 7-4 far Honey Bun (pulled up). 4, 9. (R O'Subarn, Bognor Regs). Tota: 513.20; 53.70, 53.50, 51.50. Dual Forecast: 5120.50. Computer Straight Forecast: 5143.01. Trat: 579.30. NR: My Old Chra.

2.00 1. CARNEL'S JOY (R Durwood) 14-1: 2. Miss Diskin 3-1; 3. Queenford Belle 6-4 fav. 15 cm. 1½, 3. (T George, Struct). Totar £12.70: £1.20, £1.50, £1.50. Dusl Foreasts £30.40. Computer Straight Foreast £55.91. Tro: £12.00. NR: Siber Shred. L: 2. Evening Rain 7-2 fav. 3. Prodest Peg-

3.00: 1. SISTER STEPHANE R Duraccopy 4-6 fp; 2. Coart Melody 11-4; 3. Beaum-pains 9-1. 5 ran. 8, dot, "Mrs M McCourt, Warrage, Total £1.30; £1.10, £1.90, Dual Forecast £1.90, Computer Straight Forecast £2.84. 3.30: 1. ST VILLE 13 Power: 11-2: 2. Ja-

4-1 fav Montagnard (pulled up). Sht-hd., 20. (R Buckler, Bridport). Tote: £5.30; £1.50, £3.00, £3.20. Dual Forecast: £11.50. Computer Straight Forecast: £42.72. Tricast: £318.84. Tric: £77.40.

4.00: 1. TERAO ID Bridgester) 5-1; 2. Bramblehili Book 7-2 g fav; 3. Pop Song 15-2. 8 ram, 7-2 g fav Super Tactics (4th). 5, nd. IM Pipe, Wellingson. Tota: £8-0; 22.10, £2.00, £1.80. Duel Forecast: £6.00. Computer Straight Forecast: £21.57. Thoast: £117.36. Tro: £98.30. NR: Maple Dancer. 11/1.56. Trot: £58.30. NR: Maple Dancer. 4.30: 1. SLITHERLAND MOSS (R Massey) 11-4 far; 2. Lord McMurrough 6-1: 3. Palosanto 7-2: 15 ran. 242, 5. (D Nicholson, Temple Guting). Totae £3.60: £1.10, £2.90, £1.90 Dust Forecast £23.80. Computer Straight Forecast £21.75. Trot: £13.80. UR: Bougrove Man.

Quedpot: £15.90. Placepot: £140.70. Place S: £12.16. Place S: £61.78. SOUTHWELL

1.40: 1 KINGCHIP BOY (Thes) 11-4 fav. 2. Legal lesse 7-1: 3. Mezzoramio 33-1. 13 ran. 4, 3. M. Ryan, Newmarkei) Tote: 54-50; 52-80, £2-70. Dual Foreast: 517.70. Computer Straight Forecast: £22.15. Tricast: £496.23. Tho: not work NR; Die Georgy.

RACING RESULTS 2.10: 1. DANCING CAVALIER (F Lynch) 2.10: 1. DANCING CAVALIER (F Lynch)
12-1: 2. Yeoman Oliver 7-1: 3. Gary's Gamble 9-2 iav. 4. Foreman 6-1. 18 ran. 3. 1½.
(R Hollinshead, Upper Longdon). Tote:
£19-40: £5-70, £2-80, £1-00, £3-00. Dual
forecast: £102-40. Computer Straight Forecast: £99-21. Treast: £417-20. Tro: £220.10.
2-40: 1. ASHOVER (Kimberley Hart) 5-1:
2. Wonderful Day 10-1: 3. Alzoomo 3-1 tav.
13 ran. 6. 3. (T D Barron, Maunty). Tota:
£2-30: £2-60. £2-10. £2-10. Dual Forecast:
£36-20. Computer Straight Forecast: £53-30.
Treast: £166-54. Tro: £45-90.
3.10: 1. FORFZARF (C Teapure 11-6: 2.

3.10: 1. FORZAR (C Teague) 11-4; 2. Katle Officer 4-6 for; 3. Zesti 16-1. 7 ren. 7, 20. (S R Bowing, Mansfeld), Tota: £4.20; £2.50, £1.10. Duel Forecast: £2.10. Computer Streight Forecast: £4.92.
3.40: 1. TAME DEER (Emma O'Gomman) 7-1; 2. Sea Devil 6-1; 3. Sir Taskers 5-2 for. 14 ren. b. bd. (6/10/Comman) Neumadott.

14 ran. 1/2, hd. (W O'Gorman, Newmarket). Tota: £10.50; £2.00, £2.60, £1.30. Dual Forecast: £22.10. Computer Straight Forecast: £48.26. Tho; £8.60. NR: Brookhead Lady. 4.10: 1. DAAWE (M Deering) 20-1; 2. Encore M\*Lady 14-1; 3. My Cherrywell 12-1.
15 ran. 2-1 tay Dessentor (5th). 2, 1/2. (Ars

Computer Straight Forecast: £256.16. The-ast: £3,174.61. Trio: £292.80. Jackpot: Not won. Pool of £70,063.47 car-ried forward to Lenester today. Quadpot: £31.10. Placepot: £247.40. Place 6: £46.14. Place 6: £114.44.

WARWICK

1.50: 1. CHRCODARI (A Moguret 7-2 fav; 2. Hamilton Silk 5-1; 3. Reitiss 9-2, 12 ran-5, 314; D Nicholson, Temple Gatrug, Totes £4.00; £2.00, £2.20, £2.20, Dual Forecast: £9 90. Computer Straight Forecast: £21.89, Inc. £17.50.

Inc: £17.50.

2.20: 1. DNOT'S LADY (W Marston: 8-13 tor. 2. Fixturessecretary 4-1: 3. Cettle Town 7-2. 4 ran. 24:. 20. (Mrs. ) Priman, Upper Lambourn. Totas: £17.0. Dual Forecast: £2.30. Computer Straight Forecast: £3.26 2.50; 1. BIG STRAND () Loser 7-4; 2. Cooliny 50-1; 3. Must be Magical 10-1. 8 ran. 4-5 tay The Caumius (etc.) 3-1. 1-2. (M Pipe, Wellington). Tota: £2-20: £1-50. £4-70. £2-60. Dual Forecast: £88.30. Computer Straight Forecast: £52-44. 3.20: £0.20. All Month FORT (A Magine). 11-12. Dictionation 4-1: 2. After Smith 15-2.

Tota: £14,30, £3,20, £2,80, Dual Forecast: £16,20, Computer Straight Forecast: £51,72 3.50: 1 DIAIS (6 Bradley) 7-2: 2. Flying Gomer 11-2: 3. Moonlight Air 16: 1. 22 ran. 100-30 fav. Brogeen Lady, 5. 15.4. U Jenk-ins, Roystoni. Tota: £4.60, £0.00, £2.00, £3.30. Dual Forepast: £16.40. Company Straight Forebast: £24.43. This: £220.00. Straight Forecast: 224, 45, 170, 1820-05, 4,20; 1, RAINHAM IA Magune: 33-1; 2, Goldingo 9-2; 3, Prisey Street Boy 33-1, 8 ran. 9-4 fav Most Equal (4th), 3, 172, ID McCain, Cholmondeleyi. Tota: 520 10; 53-30, Dual Forecast: 523-50, Computer Straight Forecast: 5267, 76, Inc. 52, 412-36.

Computer Straight For ast: £4,512.36. Quadpot: £119.70. Placepot: £313.60. Place S: £351.32. Place 6: £604.64

Brendan Powell was punished by the Newton Abbot stewards after his mount, St Ville, beat Jadidh by a short-head in the Plymouth Handicap Hurdle yesterday. The jockey was adjudged to have used his stick with unreasonable frequency

and was banned for four days.

### **Britain** are too good for Belarus

though Gennady Bribovski pulled a goal back for Belarus at a penalty corner midway through the second half, they were quickly back in command, with Nick Thompson boring his way through the Belarussian defence for his second goal. A third-minute goal from

Jon Wyatt, following up at Britam's second penalty corner,

without a string of outstanding saves from goalkeeper Alexan-der Eklemenko, particularly at penalty corners. Britain's coach, David Whit-

way his team gave Belarus op-portunities in the second half. Spain, Britain's next oppo-

is a rest day.

BELARUS: A Externenko; A Virnskevitch (capi); G Bribovski, D Jukovski, S Drozdov, A Jukovets, I Voltuk, A Budkov, A Tchebotarev, I Korditchenko, S Kilmovitch. Substitutes used: I Carya, I Barkov, A Mankovski. Umptres: R St Rose (Trinadad & Tobago). F

#### TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football

SCOTTISH FIRST DIVISION

SCOTTISH THIRD DIVISION

FA UMBRO TROPHY First-round replays: Griley Rovers v Stalyondge (7.45): Ernley v Mccambe, Northwiten v Hednestord (7.45); Cho v Boston Unit Weinige V Rotwell (7.45); Chelbrid v Dover (7.45); Sudbury Town v Trovbridge; Sto v Famborough (7,45); St.Albers v Ket Erfield v Hayes; Altrincham v Colwy Yeovil v Bath City (7,45)

Teori v Bath Ltty (17-45)
IGS LEAGUE Premier Division: Worthing v hingstonian, First Division: Barson Rovers v Rus-ing Martor (7-45); Tharne v Barkong (7-45); Udunigs v Bagron Regs (7-45); Secand Divisions Carney Island v Mars (7-45); Chalforn St Pages v authorities (7-46); Chalforn St Pages v Lattherbook (7-46); Chalforn St Pages v Lattherbook (7-46); Chalforn St Pages v

JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Divis Des Town v Sudbury Town; Hardeigh v Wooden NORTH WEST COUNTES LEAGUE First Division

Blackpool Rovers v Rossendale; Funton v Permith Mane Pool v Nutsgrove: Selbors v Newcastle Town. Challenge Cep Hard-round replay: America Col-leres; v Nesson. NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE President's Cup fourth ro UNIFE SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Three Bridges v Oaksood. WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Division: Faversham v Folkestone in acta.

Faversham v Foliestone in acto.

IRISH LEAGUE COCA-COLA Floodilt Cup first round first lag Ballymera v Cusaders. First round second lag. Artis v Lame, Bangor v Colerane; Cettornale v Ornagh; Glectoran v Newsy: Limical v Distatery. Portations v Ballyclare.

PONTINS LEAGUE First Divisions Eventon v Notungarn Forest (7, OI; Notes County v Derby County v O. Third Divisions Createred v Creater Cty 7, OI.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division Portsmouth v Southampton (7.0); Queen's Pari Rangers v Doted Utd (2.0) (at Loftus Road); With fore v Normen (2.0). FA VOUTH CUP Third-round replays Enfect . Here ford Utd.

KURJOY UNION
HENRIEN WELSH LEAGUE First Division:
Scarasa / Portypinds 7.0.; Danesi - Ethe Vale
(7.30): Treority i Neath (7.0).
WRU MIDWEEK COMPRETITION Pool A. Stand
(Port, and (7.0): Cross Neys i Abertune: 7.0).
Pool B. Dumani v Tempt Leaf (7.0): Taneat: Landbrey (7.0). Pool C. Cartiff Mothrey (Carans), (7.0): Lantaran v South Water Pool B.
(1.0): Donyman v Miseneg (7.0): Total v
Vitrang rias (7.0).

Other sports

BOXING: WEO Inter-sortiver to Supermo-cleaned the correct mark Mail, Berma Green, Lancard, Mark Dulane, Eng. 1999. - Colon Orf-SNOOKER: Sinhass, Word Champion on place from Blue-book. SWIMMING: Word Cut meet Sherring

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RACELINE

# Lindsay defends the Super League revolution

Dave Hadfield talks to the man who is leading rugby league into the unknown as a summer sport in a new competition

n Sunday afternoon. Maurice Lindsay watched the match that he has been largely responsible for turning into rugby league's last

At Salford to present their First Division championship trophy and to bring down the curtain on 100 years of mud, blood and being misunderstood, the chief executive of the Rugby Football League had a few nostalgic regrets - but only a few.

The weekend marked the this country. In March, profesrecognisable

from its grubby. if also glo- 'Nostaigia is Nostalgia's lovely, but if you lovely, but if you wallow in wallow in it, it it, it can lead you to make can lead you to says. Whatev- make mistakes' er errors Lind-

say may have made on behalf of British rugby league, nostalgia and inertia have not been responsible. Already the undisputed dom-

inant force in the British game. he has recently become the chairman of the international board set up by Super League - in effect its worldwide supremo - he also took charge of the World Cup last autumn and chairs the Central Council for Physical Recreation.

The prediction of one columnist is that this year will see him succeed both President Clinton and the Pope. But if Lindsay ever feels over-stretched by his responsibilities, he is not ad-

"I'm looking for more," he says from his office at the League's new headquarters on the outskirts of Leeds, "But I can only do it because we've intested in more people. Thereare some terrific young neople. here. They don't come through the door at nine and go out at five. It becomes their life, part of their living culture."

The demands Lindsay makes upon his staff are indeed leg-endary and life is unlikely to become any less hectic in the months ahead.

Apart from switching to sumcepted £87m from Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation to hecome part of his worldwide sports and television empire. It is a deal that has led the game into unchartered territory, where control of its own destiny,

Lindsay is vehemently defensive on this point. The way he tells it. £87m has bought Murdoch no control whatsoever. The game is free to carry on as end of the last winter season in it pleases, with the single exception of remaining in cahoots sional rugby league will re-emerge from its chrysalis as a and shunning the other warring colourful new creature, un- faction at the Australian Rugby League.

It was not, he insists, a condition of the deal Britain should switch to the summer. We would have moved to summer rugby if we hadn't had a penny," he says,

a late convert to the summer bandwagon himself. "It was on the agenda for the next meeting of the Rugby League Council. There would have been a debate, but it would have gone through. I'm sure of that. Only a few dichards would have voted against it."

It is a moot question and one to which we will never know the answer. Summer rugby was part of the package - although, he emphasises, at the RFL's instigation rather than Super ague's - and went through on

For Lindsay, there is only a trace of regret. "I remember all the great occasions on Boxing Days, but I also remember getting up at four in the morning to try to get pitches fit for play. I also remember players like Denis Betts coming up to me in the mud and rain and saving: 'Maurice, what are we doing playing in this." If rugby in winter was such a good idea, where were the crowds to watch it?"

In summer, he believes, rugby league will reach out and grab the attention of a wider audience which has proved resistant, "I honestly believe that, given a fair go, we will be the biggest thing in summer in this country."



No regrets: Maurice Lindsay, chairman of the Super League's international board

But what, apart from its parochial horizons and the mud on its boots, does rugby league stand to lose in the process?

Well. its name, for a start. It will not have escaped eagle-eyed viewers of Sky Television's trailers for the summer re-start that there is no mention of rughy league: it is all Super League.

It is no accident, but Lindsay sees nothing to worry about. There has long been a belief that rugby league was held back by sharing half a name with rugby union.

"They can distinguish between the two in Wigan, but they certainly can't in America or Hong Kong," he says. Britain and Australia had already disprove as durable. cussed a name change before Super League reared its head.

The game has been through such a process once before, in 1924, when it ditched its original identity as the Northern Union. It says much about the code, however, that such changes can be slow to catch on.

"When I was first at Wigan in 1979," recalls Lindsay, "the play-

ers' registration forms we were using still had 'Northern Rugby Union' on them." Commendable economy with the stationery, but the name rugby league might not

Is it, though, a very wise idea to have the sport identified by a trade mark, a brand name, which, after all, is what Super League is?

It is a question which creates some agitation. "Don't drive me down that road. People keep trying to prove that there is Photograph: Peter Jay

isn't there. It's wearing a bit boringly thin, to be honest.

There are other sore points. One, inevitably, is the Independent's disclosure last month of a contractual clause that allows Murdoch and his men some say over who plays for whom. Suffice it to say that the story is our first topic of conversation and we part, four hours later, still both convinced

that the other has got it wrong. "Our lawyers have looked at it and News Corporation's some measure of control that lawyers have looked at it and petition? A game sufficiently

they have said that there is no way it will be used in that manner," he says, insisting that the clause exists only in order to prevent defections to the ARL

"There are some writers who have the preconception that Rupert Murdoch is the devil incarnate and that everything he's associated with is the devil's work. I find that completely and utterly contemptible."

It is this failure to understand

the depth of suspicion of Murdoch within the game - even among those who would otherwise welcome much that he promises - that is Lindsay's Achilles' heel.

A good example of that is his attitude to the future of the Challenge Cup. The game's oldest competition is in limbo at present, with its role in a Super League season uncertain. Lindsay says that he has not

been able to get far in negotia-tions with the BBC, but that that does not was such a good particularly matter, because idea, where Sky will happily snap it up, were the crowds pre-season or to watch it?"

midweek com-

"You might find that when Super League starts, the Challenge Cup no longer assumes the overwhelming importance it does now." Take that and ex-

tract the nostalgia from it. There are other sacrifices that may be required in order for rugby league to take its place in the sun. Ashes Tests, as we have understood them for almost 90 years, have been an early casualty of the war between Super League and the ARL Even the tour against Super League opposition in Australia this autumn is dependent upon circumstances over which Lindsay, or anyone else in Britain. has no control.

If the court case in Sydney goes against Super League next week, as it is expected to do, there might be no international play-offs and no tour to Australia. "We would carry on alone until Super League in Australia is free to join in. he says. "It wouldn't be a disaster. Super League is not a one-year deal - it's a way of life."

There could be some complex machinations involved in keeping that way of life going in Australia. An offshore comdifferent from rughy league as to escape the court's strictures. Both are ideas that have been discussed. Lindsay acknowl-

There is another possibility Australian Super League platers - barred from playing at home - could play Super League here. "I don't think clubs would turn down the opportunity of having Laurie Daley or Allan Langer on their books," he says intriguingly.

There is a tacit acknowledgement here that Super League, in its first European season, will need all the help it can get. The shortened, transitional season that ended on Sunday has not been a success. although Lindsay believes that clubs who blame it for falling gates and declining interest are seeking alibis for their own

Interest, hewever, needs to tion needs to petitive, someihing which Lindsoy helieves can be achieved by a

iting clubs to spending 40 per cent of their income on players. Will that do anything to end Wigan's domination? He says

that it will, "because they spend more than 40 per cent now.

The financial rules under which clubs will operate go much further than that. A decument which is on its way to them specifies what they must do and how much they must spend on doing it, in all areas of their operation. They will have to present monthly accounts and be subject to unannounced spot checks - a revolution in the culture of the game that will be rather more starding than switching to summer - or they will simply not get

their Murdoch money.

These are things that had to be done. Otherwise the game was just going to wither away. As it is. I think we need three years to firmly plant Super League in this country. You won't be able to judge it in the first season, coming straight after the last winter season. But in 1997, it will be building up and in 1998 it will be colossal. And it will not be a colossus

in chains. We have Maurice

## **Questions of Sport**



## £40,000 to be won

Today we are giving you another sporting chance of an instant win. In Saturday's paper, there was a Questions Of Sport multichoice scratch card which, if you answer three sporting questions correctly, gives you the chance of an instant cash prize from £1 to £1,000. You don't have to be an obsessive fan to play - a good general sporting knowledge should suffice. But remember, you only get one chance to answer each question, so if you are in any doubt, check it out. The card contains eight games so you can play daily through to Friday 26 January. As well as the daily instant cash prizes there is a weekly

**HOW TO PLAY** 

Today we are playing the section of the card dated Tuesday 23 January. Below are three sporting questions, coded as A, B and C. Scratch off your answer to Question Thirteen, either A,B or C in the Q13 column then repeat for Q14 and Q15.

THE QUESTIONS

Q13 Who is the Olympic 400 A: Quincy Watts B: Michael Johnson

Q14 How many years in succession have Wigan won rugby league's Challenge Cup? B: 10 C: 6

Q15 Who is England's most capped rugby union player? A: Rory Underwood B: Rob Andrew

HOW TO CLAIM IF you have revealed three identical cash amounts of £5 or under, DO NOT PHONE. Take the claim coupon OR a piece of plain paper with your name and address on it PLUS the relevant section of the card to one of the

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accumulator prize. You could also win

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If you reveal three identical cash

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Some of our winners so far: Christine Marsden form Bumley, Lancs -1. No purchase necessary, Cards are freely available from newsagents or by sending a large sae to independent Questions Of Sport Card Request, PO-Box 41, Blackburn X, BB2 6AG. One card per Peter Hitchen from Clitheroe, Lancs - £100 Mark Webber from Weatherby, Leeds - £100 Rhoda Coates from Southampton, Hants -£100

request.

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must be infact to be eligible for a prize, Cards with printing errors are void.

4. Winners must agree to the publication of their names and photographs in The Independent and the Independent on Sunday.

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6. Persons under 16 years old, employees of Newspaper Publishing pic.. Mirror Group, Europrint Promotions Ltd., Newspaper Publishing pic retail agents, their agents and families are not allowed to play.

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ry the Queen.

*૽* (25) 0 ●

Whatever life holds for Warrington, it is unlikely to be dull.
The appointments yesterday of
Alex Murphy and John Dorahy,
two controversial figures from

showing that 20 months out of
the game since being made redundant by Huddersfield have
not robbed him of his dexterity with a soundbite.

showing that 20 months out of
the game since being made retaining rugby to Warrington,"
promised Murphy, who
coached Warrington with great
success from 1971-78 and whose
John Myler has resigned as The appointments yesterday of Alex Murphy and John Dorahy, not robbed him of his dexteri-

two controversial figures from tw with a soundbite. different but overlapping eras, Dorahy, plagued by personality clashes with senior players will see to that, writes Dave at Wigan, took the opportuni-Dorahy, back in Great ty to hit out at the account re-Britain after being sacked by Wigan at the end of the 1993cently published by one of those players, the now Leeds 94 season, is the replacement coach. Dean Bell, labelling it for his fellow-Australian. Bri-"fiction".

an Johnson, who resigned as The former Halifax coach, whose distinguished playing ca-reer included spells at Western coach after Wire's record 80-0 defeat by St Helens earlier Suburbs. Manly and Hull KR. Murphy, who shares the dis-tinction of being sacked by Wigan – in his case in 1984 – was eventually sacked, after winning the championship and Challenge Cup. following a confrontation with the Wigan chairman, Jack Robinson.

takes the new role of rugby foot-ball executive, promising yes-terday, with his tongue only "The difference at Warringslightly in his cheek, to keep out ton is that I will have 100 per cent backing," he said of that

"John Dorahy will come back stormy episode. to haunt Wigan," he predicted,

own departure from Central Park came when he threw a phone at the then chairman,

Maurice Lindsay.

Wire sign up Dorahy and Murphy

although the assistant coach,

"John Dorahy will bring a Clive Griffiths, overlooked for

Entertainment off the field is almost guaranteed from the new Warrington regime, which was completed yesterday by the appointment of another former Wigan employee, John Fillingham, as commercial manager, with a brief to raise finance for the acquisition of what Mur-

phy termed "only the very, very best players". Dorahy and Murphy will have their first look at what is currently at their disposal in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup fourthround tie at Oldham on Sunday,

Academy coach at St Helens, in protest against the sacking of Eric Hughes.

"It is not a rush decision, but felt I had to make stand." Myler said. Saints' new coach, Shaun McRae, is expected to arrive at the club tomorrow.

Bradford Bulls have completed the signing of the Australian scrum-half, Glen Tomlinson, from Batley, in exchange for Roger Simpson, wick, plus a small cash adjust-

Tomlinson, who was also a target for Leeds, is going to Australia for a family wedding and will return in time to start training for the start of Super

### Saltonstall steadies his ship in drive to Olympian heights

Sailing STUART ALEXANDER

Hadfield.

this month.

of selection matters.

Jim Saltonstall wants a bumper birthday present from his brood of Olympic Games contenders. The newly appointed nononsense coach to Britain's sailing team will be 49 on 22 July, the

day of the first races in the regatta

to be staged off Savannah. It is also the anniversary of racing champions. the date he left the Royal Navy 19 years ago to take up a coaching post with the Royal Yacht-ing Association. When they offered me the job. I did not think I could take it as they wanted me in place within six months and normally it took 18 to fix buying yourself out of the Navy." he said. But a few strings arms was heard to grumble incredulously that the only other

the Duke of Edmburgh to mar-Saltonstall's first parade is this week in Miami, where the whole of the already picked British squad, plus the Star at Olympic level they are al-Class, who are staging their trials, begin the final six-month ex- have an existing rapport. We perimental, development and have known each other for a to be scared of anybody."

psyching process, designed to lead to Olympic medals. In a vowel-mangling Bridling-

ton brogue that could stop Rory Bremner in his tracks, Saltonstall explains the different approach he will need from the one which sees Britain as top nation and with three gold medal winners at last year's World Youth Championships, as well as world youth match-

He is proud of his record of producing 27 world champions, 16 European champions and two pre-Olympic gold medal-lists. Most of the senior team are former members of his youth squad and know how forth-right he can be. "John Major pays me to produce medals," he said. "As a coach in any sport, were pulled and his master-at- if you are not producing medals, you are looking at being asked to stand down.

person to depart so quickly, ho-nourably and legally had been ful? "Because I kick them hard enough. To a certain degree, and depending on the individual, they need kicking around a bit. They need motivating," he said, but acknowledges, "of course, ready highly motivated. We

popular choice of the competitors, with perhaps one or two reservations, and is held in considerable affection. He has a 10-point plan which

identifies any weaknesses and will ruthlessly eliminate them by the time the Games start. He also has the comfort of knowing that overall everyone is well-funded. The gold medal 470 dinghy favourites, John Merricks and Ian Walker, are backed by Mars, their female counterparts, Bethan Raggett and Sue Carr, will announce support from Yale today, as will Shirley Robertson from Aqua Vitae in the singlehanded Eu-

What Saltonstall wants is not spectacular results in Miami but a solid start to a six-month drive. Initially, he will be assessing the other foreign squads. "I'm like a spy in the sky at this stage," he said, "but over the years I have become hardened. Rightly or wrongly, I'm only in this game for winning medals. I'm not interested in fourth downwards. We're on a mission to hoover up as many medals as possible. That's my attitude to the game. I don't think we need

#### McMillan to fight for free in comeback

Boxing

Colin McMillan, who earned £200.000 from his world title reign, is happy to fight for nothing to get his career back in

McMillan, the former World Boxing Organisation featherweight champion, takes on Justin Murphy, a street sweeper from Brighton, at the Broadway Theatre, Barking, next Tuesday and neither will be taking any money from the promotion. Any profits will go to the King George Hospital in Essex and the Professional Boxers' Association, of which McMillan is secretary.

McMillan, who lost his WBO title on a bizarre dislocated shoulder injury to Colombia's Ruben Palacio in 1992, has found all the doors back to the top locked and is looking to reopen them under the new pro-

"I am fighting for nothing because money is not the main objective." McMillan said. "The fight I would like is Naseem Hamed. He keeps telling my

motion of Frank Maloney.

friends he is going to give me a good pay day, knock me out and finish my career."

## Though Underwood was right to claim that normally he would have been awarded the try, the truth is that it was not one

By Saturday morning France's price for the Five Nations had shortened to 11-8 on, while Ireland had come in to 12-1, and Wales gone out to 20-1. My normal practice is to back France whatever the odds. In the nine seasons that have passed since nine seasons that have passed since this column began. France have capable of beating any of the other teams. Scotland look like proving the won the championship four times and England three times. So the habit is not wholly irrational.

This year I put money on a France-Ireland double for Saturday's matches, and duly lost it. But I have not backed France for the championship. Instead I have (as the bookmakers like to put it) invested in my native land, not out of sentimentality, but because 20-1 seemed to me an attractive price. Nothing I saw on Saturday made me regret my deci-

sion. I may feel differently after 3 saying he had seen tries awarded for February, when England play Wales even lighter touches of the ball than at Twickenham.

On Saturday's evidence, however. Wales, if they pick the right side (an important qualification), are most difficult customers, even though the match is at Cardiff this year. But Cardiff holds no terrors for the Scots.

Nor is there any need for the Welsh team to run on to Twickenham in the hangdog way they did two years ago, when they had lost the match in their minds before it had even started. England are fallible. So also are the French. Indeed, England deserved a draw and could have won.

Rory Underwood was correct in

the one he managed. Most referees would have awarded the five points. I have attacked the practice many times in this column over the years.

Although Underwood was right to claim that normally he would have been awarded the try, the truth is that it was not one. The referee, David McHugh, made the correct decision. He did not always seem to do this in other areas of play. But my sympa-thies are with anyone who finds him-self in the unfortunate position of having to referee an England-France encounter at the Parc des Princes.

Five years ago Underwood would have scored - at any rate tried to score - himself instead of passing to Mike Catt, as he did shortly afterwards.



on rugby

Nevertheless the wing has come in for some unfair criticism, both for failing to have a go himself and for giv-ing Catt a rotten pass. If he had gone on his own and been stopped, he

would have been attacked for selfishness. As for his pass, it is in the nature of the overhead, defender-missing pass to risk ending up at the attacker's toes. It was Catt's job to catch the ball. Still, I feel sorry for him. All of a

sudden, he is having a wretched time. But then, I feel sorry for Paul Hull as well. Now that Paul Gravson is firmly established as England's goalkicker, there is every reason to give Hull another chance at full-back.

Matt Dawson had an excellent game, and Jon Sleightholme did everything that was asked of him. But again, I feel sorry - this is turning into an untypically sympathetic column -for Damian Hopley. He was dropped because he did not possess the pace of a true international wing. But

everyone knew he lacked this qual-ity. He himself did not claim to have Why pick him, out of position, in the first place? In his outings before Christmas he did not let England down once and was certainly the most determined of the backs.

in a curious reversal, the trouble now seems to lie with the English forwards. The front row rarely seemed comfortable. Martin Bayfield and Martin Johnson were not the force everyone expected them to be.

There has been a disposition to blame Mark Regan's throwing in for this. The more probable explanation was provided by the outstanding French No 6, Abdel Benazzi. He said that England lacked their strong men, Tim Rodber and Dean

There was a tremendous cheer when Richards came on as a temporary replacement for Ben Clarke. There was a palpable feeling of disappointment when he went off shortly afterwards. Why not pick him in the first place and either restore Rodber or shift Clarke to No 6?

I have deliberately kept till last my views on the right Welsh side. This is because the squad is being announced today, so whatever I say will be overtaken by the an-nouncement. But I am fairly sure the Welsh coach, Kevin Bowring. will not do what he ought to do, which is to recall Robert Jones at scrum-half and to play Jonathan Davies in the centre, inside or outside, exactly as the great man

## Hingis advances to **Grand Slam record**

The 15-year-old Martina Hingis reached her first Grand Slam quarter-final yesterday by demolishing Brenda Schultz-

McCarthy, the 11th seed. Hingis's 6-1, 6-4 victory made her the youngest woman ever to reach this stage of the Australian Open. The previous record was held by Jennifer Capriati, who reached the quarter-finals in 1992, two months before

her 16th birthday. The unseeded Hingis, who even served underarm at one stage, clearly enjoyed herself on the Centre Court. Her triumph was the day's only surprise in the fourth round. Hingis, who smiled and giggled throughout her match, joined two other teenagers, Iva Majoli and Chanda Rubin, in the quarter-finals as the younger generation issued their challenge to Monica Seles. Schultz-McCarthy gave little

resistance, despite hitting the fastest serve ever recorded in a women's tournament - a duced a 100mph ace - her only one of the match - while leading 5-1 in the first set.
"My record!" Hingis said to

Schultz-McCarthy, who replied, "So maybe I have to stay back."

line, so it was fun," said Hingis, whose cheeky tactic failed to win

her, it's just a game, which is great, I think. I wish I could see it like that. I'm 25. You fight for every point, and then this little girl just hits an underhand serve. She's 15 years old, what can you expect? She enjoys it out there and she plays a very quick game. For her it's an exhibition, it's fun.

she is something special." Conchita Martinez, the second seed, Anke Huber, the eighth seed, and Amanda Coetzer, seeded 16, all reached the last eight with straight-sets wins.

She is a little girl, but at times

Martinez had surprisingly little difficulty in overwhelming Lindsay Davenport 6-3, 6-1. Huber had a comfortable 6-3, 6-2 victory over the unseeded Barbara Schett. Coetzer, who has rebuilt her game in an attempt to compete with the hard-hitting teenagers, beat Elena Likhovtseva 6-3, 6-3 to set up a meeting with Hingis.

In the men's event, Mark Philippoussis, 19, who beat Pete Sampras, was brought down to 121.8mph delivery. Hingis pro-earth 6-2, 6-2, 6-2 by his fellow Australian Mark Woodforde. It is the first time Woodforde, one of the world's top doubles players, has reached the singles quarter-finals of a Grand Slam tournament.

Schultz-McCarthy went back to face the next serve and Hingis aces against Sampras, had 12 will be played today. Andre produced an underhand delivery. against Woodforde - but they Agassi, the No 2 seed, is look-"She was standing maybe were offset by eight double ing to secure the world No 1 three metres behind the base- faults. "It was very hard for me, spot by beating Jim Courier, the after beating Sampras, to come back," Philippoussis said. "I

But Schultz-McCarthy was relaxed. When things didn't go less impressed. She said: "For too well at the start, I couldn't too well at the start, I couldn't pump myself up, even though it was one of the biggest matches of my life."

Woodforde agreed that "he definitely wasn't the same player who played Pete Sampras", but he added: "He's such a great player that I think you should all just forget about this match and look forward to him playing much, much better tenni

Boris Becker reached the quarter-finals after being given an early shock by New Zealand's Brett Steven. Becker, the No 4 seed, dropped the first set in alarming fashion before storming back to win 1-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2. Becker put his first-set drubbing down to difficulty in working out Steven's weakbecause he had only played him once before - in 1994 in a match won by Steven.

"I really had to think hard and dig deeper," said Becker, who described the turning point as breaking Steven's serve while down a break at 2-3 in the second set. "It was a good thing I broke him right back. All of a sudden my game was a notch

Becker finished with an ace to set up a match with Yevgeny Kafelnikov, who beat Mali-Vai Washington 6-3, 6-2, 6-4.

eighth seed. Michael Chang, the No 5 seed, plays the unseeded think I maybe went on a bit too Mikael Tillstrom, of Sweden.



Martina Hingls breezes into the quarter-finals yesterday

Photograph: AFP

## of praise for half-back pair

Scotland full

**Rugby Union** 

Scotland are ready to stand by the half-back pairing of Gregor Townsend and Bryan Redpath who inspired them to victory over Ireland in their opening game in the Five Nations' Championship.

Team-mates and opponents were united in praise of the pair whose display in the 16-10 win in Dublin should leave Craig Chaimers and Gary Armstrong kicking their heels on the side-

Armstrong, the scrum-half, impressed in Scotland A's defeat by Ireland on Friday, but will find it difficult to dislodge Redpath for the visit of France to Murrayfield in 12 days' time.

Chaimers, too, will have to settle for another game on the replacements' bench after seeing Townsend, who plays his club rugby for Northampton at centre, make the Scottish standoff position his own.

Jim Telfer, the director of rugby, hinted there might be changes for the game against France, but they are unlikely to include the half-backs who so influenced Scotland's success on Saturday, "Gregor is showing signs of knowing when and where to play on the pitch for the good of the team," Richie Dixon, the Scottish an individual threat, but now he's learned to harness that with patterns of play the team require to advance the game

and to score." Murray Kidd, Ireland's knowledgeable New Zealand coach, added his praise, saying: "He did all the things we expected him to do, except we didn't expect him to get that drop goal which was a bit of a killer. He controls the game very well and keeps the pace of the game up. He is always putting pressure on."

But there was also praise for Redpath after his 16th and probably best display for Scotand, including the kick to touch which set up the first try from Kevin McKenzie. "I thought Bryan had a key role and played

superbly," Rob Wainwright, the captain, said. "When we for-wards ran out of breath he was always there, encouraging us. He deserves a lot of credit."

Dixon, however, has warned against complacency as Scotland prepare to meet the favourites. France, whose recent record at Murrayfield is miserable. "I haven't seen enough of the new France, but I would cer-tainly hope we could use this as a benchmark for progressing and not to be satisfied with what we achieved against Ireland. But we must keep our feet on the ground, because there is still a lot of work to do," he said.

Ireland look likely to make several changes for their next game in Paris in a month. One option for Kidd and his assistant and fellow New Zealander, John Mitchell, is to turn to the former New Zealand full-back, John Gallagher, who made an unspectacular debut for Ireland A at Donnybrook. Gallagher's experience could be useful in an Irish midfield which lacked a cutting edge against a deter-mined Scottish defence.

Eric Elwood, the outsidehalf under pressure from Paul Burke, was criticised for missing two kicks at goal, although it is the scrum-half Chris Saverimutto who could pay the price for defeat. There are also liketo be changes up front, escoach, said. "He always poses pecially among the back row and at No 8, where the Irish trio were outclassed by their Scot-

#### TODAY'S NUMBER

The spectators who watched Mexico win football's Concacaf Gold Cup with a surprise 2-0 win over Brazil's Under-23 team at the Coliseum in Los Angeles. The Brazilian coach. Merio Zagalo, blamed the weather. \*Rain favours might over art," he said.

## Reeve joins chorus of anger

Ray Illingworth's England regime came under fire once again yesterday - this time from a World Cup discard, Dermot Reeve.

The Warwickshire captain is of England's squad of 14 for the tournament in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, which starts to the World Cup.

next month. Reeve went to South Africa after the Test series as one of three specialist one-day men selected last September for the final leg of the tour, plus the World Cup. However he has been sent home while Craig White and Phillip DeFreitas, both added to the bitterly upset at being left out squad just before this month's one-day international series against South Africa, are going

Reeve said: "I have played just twice, bowling 19 overs and facing just 18 balls when batting. I don't think I have been given too much opportunity. I was angry and hurt, but I will

bounce back." Illingworth has already been criticised by the Derbyshire fast bowler, Devon Malcolm, who faces disciplinary action from Lord's after outspoken criticism of the England chairman.

### Muralitharan's action defended

Daryl Foster, who coaches

spinning action is also legiti-mate," Foster said.

The verdict adds weight to Sri ing its rocky tour of Australia, during which the team was also found guilty and then exonerated of ball tampering.

Muralitharan was no-balled for throwing during the second Test in Melbourne last month and the International Cricket Council advised him to change his style to ensure his career can "It's another opinion from a continue.

on video," he said.

second thing. What may appear

to the naked eye may not do so

**Ragby Union** SWALEC CUP Shoth-round drawn Caer South Wales Police; Uandovery v Newport; v Bridgend; Pontypridd v Maesteg, Newh Runner; Swenses v Carldt, Cardin Instrum-vert, Neath v Wintland. (Ties to be played a

Morning Glory, a German yacht, was the first of 100 boets to complete the 1996 Cape Town to Rio sailboat race. The 3,429 nautical miles (6,350km) voyage took 14 days 14 hours 52 minutes.

ICE SKATING
EUROPEAN FIGURE SKATING CHAMPI-ONSHIPS (Sofia) Qualifying Group &: 1 Z Swed (Fb) 1.0 ps; 2 M Kaas (Fn 1.20; 3 V Vorobeva (Azer) 3.0, Group B: 1 V Gustraroli (Fb 1.0 ps; 2 Y Lawrenchuk (Uko) 2.0; 3 L Kuio-varia (Cz Reo) 3.0.

MONTE CARLO RALLY Leading standings (af-ter yeastenday's six stages): 1 P Bernardm (Fr) Ford Escort 1hr 39mm 3sec; 2 F Delector (Fr) Psuggot 305 + 1min 9sec; 3 A Schwarz (Ger)

Phil Whitlock, the former England cap-tain, is to retire from the Professional Squash Association Tour after 10 years

on the circuit to spend more time at home with his family.

Resort	Conditions (Lower)	Conditions (Upper)	Area open	Last snow	Weather	Forecast
AUSTRIA						
Schladming		hard	95%	8.1	clear	clear
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Badgastein	far	hard	95%	8.1	clear	clear
FRANCE						
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Courcheval	hard	packed	80%	12.1	maxed	STIOW
ITALY						
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#### Weightlifting

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#### Steelers and Storm consolidate

ice Hockey

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pulled two points ahead of Cardiff Devils – who have a game in hand – after the Devils lost a point in a 3-3 draw with Newcastle Warriors on Saturday, writes Steve Pinder.

The teams fighting it out for the First Division title, Manchester Storm and Blackburn

Hawks, reinforced their claims to be included in the proposed

At the top of the Premier Super League that now seems Division Sheffield Steelers certain to go ahead next season. On Sunday Blackburn entertained Manchester, and the atmosphere created by the 3,500 capacity crowd put to shame some of the Premier Division sides' support. The Storm proved too strong for the Hawks as they eased to a 9-3 victory to increase their lead in the league.

#### WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

The decline in popularity of squash has been witnessed by this month's national championships, which passed by with barely a flicker of public interest. Hence the decision of the Squash Rackets Association to charge Jonah Barrington, six times British Open champion and long-time scourge of the game's establishment, with rewving it. . SRA president since 1994, he

became a paid consultant on 1 January. "Attitudes have to change," he said. "The sport has to break away from a lot of its traditions and there must no longer be even a sniff of snobbery." Barrington set his sights on professional sport, despite being told it carried no status, "If I had re-

alised my dream, I would have

played football for Chelsea," he

said. "Instead, circumstances

brought me into squash, which ! found suited my nature." He tilmed professional in 1969, and through his winnings, en-



dorsements, coaching and extra bitions, became the first man to eam a full living from the game. Today he is also a consultant to the Dutch federation and coaches part-time at Millfield School.

Now 54, he lives in Glastonbury with his wife. Madeline. They have two sons. He still "trains obsessively" but a snapped Achilles tendon has curraited his playing. "With each year that passes, the age group I can dee! with gets younger," he seed. "I'm only really good for under-10s now." Jon Culley

### **Athletics**

Basketball

Linford Christie and Colin Jackson will race at track meetings in Australia this week. The British pair will be compet-ing in a Grand Prix series, with races in Adelaide on Friday and Perth on Sun-

NBA: Depor, 96 Chicago 111; Toronto 97 Boston 95; Houston 96 Oriando 97; Indiana 106 Wash-agon 96; Philadelpha 88 San Arconto 118; Seat-te 108 Delias 101; Pricera 111 Secamento 97; Portand 88 Cevetand 81. EASTERN CONFERENCE

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Boxing

Steve Coilins is to make a third defence of his World Boxing Organisation super-muddeweight atte. The 31 year-old Dubliner will meet the British middleweight champion, Newte Brown, on Sat-urday 9 March at the Green Giens Arena in Millstreet, Co Cook - the venue where, just under a year ago, he beat Chris Eu-bank.

Cricket

PA Deleted Teletry Second-bound care. No-me or Nyche v Romeel or Welling Transmige or Suchun, Toen v Gounester, Startord Rangers or Guiseley v Catsyn Bay or Africation, More-cambe or Emely v Kademenster or Boschied; Dudie, v Werthy Tych; Bognor Regis v Rad-cife Borough, Boretom Wood v Dover or The New Zealand openers, Craig Spearman and Roger Tistise, posted an unbeaten hundred partnership to put their

#### A former Australian Test cricket coach has come to the aran's leg spin, all views indicated that he does not extend therefore his legspecialist." Hilary Marcelline. the cricket board's honorary treasurer, said. "It's a split-

aran, the Sri Lankan off- his arm, therefore his legspinner, saving he bowls and does not throw.

Kent, wrote to the Board of Lanka's plea of innocence dur-Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka saying a video of the bowler from six different angles showed that the apparent throwing was a "visual illusion".

SPORTING DIGEST

side in a strong position at the close of the third day of the second Test against Zimbabwe in Auckland yesterday. The home side reached stumps at 138 for no wicket – a lead of 63 after Zimbabwe had been dismissed for 326 in their first limitings. SECOND TEST (Auckland, third day): New Zealand, with all their second-innings wick-ets standing, lead New Zealand by 63 runs.

(New Zealand won toss)
NEW ZEALAND - First landings 251 (S P Reming 84, C L Caims 57). 

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Kalusethetama, W.P. U.J. C. Vasa, G.P. Wickermassingle, H.P. D. In Drammassen, M. Mushtheran,
M. Atapattu, U. Chandene, K.R. Pushpelezmara,

Mexico won the Concacaf Gold Cup with a 2-0 victory over the Brazilian Under-23 side in Los Angeles. Spectacular performances came from Mexico's Luis Garcia and Cuaultremo Blanco. The Brazilians were reduced to 10 men for the last 10 minutes after their defender, Andre Luis, was sent off for his second yellow card. In the third-place play-off, the United States beat Guatemala 3-0 thanks to goals from Eric Wynalda, Jovan Kirovski and Jeff Agoos. CONCACAF GOLD CUP Finat (Los Angeles): Menco 2 (Los Garca :5-4, Blanco 7-5; Brazil 0. Thirti-place match: United States 3 (Hynal-ca 34, Agoos 37, Mrovski 87) Guatemala 0.

TRANSFERS: Scott Partridge (forward) Bristol City to Plymouth Argife (foan). FA UMBRO TROPHY Second-round draw. M.3-

Chetranham; Femborough or Stough v Ketter-ing or St. Alberts; Boston Utd or Chorley v Gains-borough Trinty; Bath City or Yeovi v Hayes or Entledt; Macclessfeid v Purfleyt: Byth Spartans v Staybnotgs Calso or Gresley Rovers: Carshalton v Newport: AFC; Stevenage Borough v Burton Albert; Wembley v Hadresford or Worthanch Vic-tona; Haldas Your v Bromsgrove Rovers. (Flee to be played 10 February).

to the player of the Pathneys,

TRALY SQUAD (international friendly v Wales,
Terni, boromovic; Godineopers: Peruzzi (hversus), Toldo (Forentina), Defenders: Apolloni
(Parma), Casmaseare (Parma), Carbooti (Parma),
Costiscerte (Marn), Fernal, Carbooti (Parma),
Serindli (Marn), Conde (Juertus), Midfielders:
Albortini (Marn), Conde (Juertus), Drippe (Parma),
Del Pierre (Luertus), J. Unito (Livertus),
Di Mattho (Lapo), Forenario: Costinagio (Lazo),
Ravenetti (Juertus), Zola (Parma),
SUNDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Italian Lengue: Piacetta Z Lazo I. Spanishi Lengue: Real Scoedad

1 Adebco Madrido A. Unido Lena 3 Salguesos

2: Compornacience 2 Estrela da Amadora 1; Braga 1 Belerenses 1: Lega 4 Chaves 1; Boewsta

2 Sporting Lisbon 1. Bord Gais Lengue of Ireland: Duridisk 2 Drogheda 2.

The Warwickshire club, Leek Wootton,

are to host the world left-handed am-ateur championship on 23-26 July, the

ateur championship on 23-26 July, the week after the Open at Lythern. It is the first time the event has been staged in the United Kingdom.

LEADING WORLD RANKINGS: 1 G Norman (Aus 13.73 pts average; 2 N Proc (Zm) 10.39; 3 E Bs (SA) 10.02; 4 B Langer (GP) 9.31; 5 C Pasm (LIS) 9.31; 6 C Mongomere (GP) 8.97; 7 N Fadio (GB) 8.17; 6 M Ozak Lapan) 7.16; 9 S Elengon (Aus) 7.11; 10 F Couples (US) 7.03; 1.1 T Letroran (US) 6.77; 1.2 L Roberts (US) 6.49; 1.3 J-M Oleabal (Sp) 6.34; 1.4 L Jenzen (US) 5.37; 1.5 S Torrance (GB) 5.35; 1.6 S Hoch (US) 5.34; 1.7 V Sengh (Fig) 5.33; 1.8 P Jacobsen (US) 5.24; 1.9 B Cressitaw (US) 4.93; 0.0 M McClumber (US) 4.93; 0.0 mer GB: 38 B Lane 3.56; 56 M Jennes 2.87; 57 I Wbosnam 2.86; 60 D Gallord 2.78; 83 D Corle 2.09; 97 P Walton 1.84.

BOB HOPE CLASSIC (Palm Desert, Calif)

97 P Watton 1.84.

BOB NOPE CLASSIC (Pelm Desert, Calif) Leading final-naumd scores (US unless statusd): 337 M Bruoks 66 68 69 67 67. 338 J Huston 69 71 65 65 68. 339 S Heori 70 69 67 68 65: 340 B Bryant 71 65 65 71 68. N Herske 69 69 64 69 69: P Stewart 71 65 71 63 70. 341 K Peny 75 69 67 65 65: P Goydos 69 64 70 69 69: J Maggent 69 68 69 64 70 69 69: J Maggent 69 68 69 64 71 F Couples 72 67 67 67 67 0. 342 W Austin 74 65 69 66 67: J Funk 72 67 67 67 69: 343 O Utresh 70 70 69 66 69: B Judgle 67 11 70 65 68; T Mag 68 69 69 65 70: J Pameuk (Swe) 72 68 65 67 71. Selected: 346 S Lyle (68) 72 69 68 69 68. LPGA HEALTHSOUTH TOURNAMENT (Orlands) lected: 346 S Lyle (GB) 72 69 68 69 68.
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Sheehan 66 71 73. 211 M Hirase (Japan) 73 69 65; H Alfredsson Seel 70 70. 71. 212 L
Daves (GB) 72 70 70; C Pierre (GB) 67 73 72.

OLYMPIC QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT (Bar-

OCTINITIC QUALIFYTHS TOMORAMENT (Barcelount): Spain 0 India 0; Malaysia 1 Netherlands 4; Great Britain 4 Belarus 1; Beigium 2 Carreda 3, Stendings (offer three gleane): 1 Spain 5pts; 2 Netherlands 4; 3 Great Britain 4; 4 India 4; 5 Malaysia 4. (First five qualify for Olympics in Albrita). ice hockey

BRitish LEAGUE Premier Division (Sunday): Cardiff 9 Durham 2; Humberside 11 Stough 7; Mitton keynes 5 Basingstoke 5; Nottingram 4 Fite 4; Sheffield 8 Newcastle 4.

## Fowler focuses on final push

CLIVE WHITE

Newcastle United are not the only Geordies who have suddenly had to appreciate the threat of Liverpool, Another Tynesider, Alan Shearer, also now knows what it is like to have them breathing down your neck, even if in theory Robbie Fowler and Stan Collymore are supposed to be on the same side as their esteemed England col-

league.

The belated arrival yesterday of the deadly Liverpool duo at the start of the national squad's three-day get-together at Bisham certainly spiced up the proceedings. Unfortunately. Paul Ince, who has had to wait 11 months - for whatever reason - to renew his acquaintance with England team-mates will have to wait at least one more day. He managed to catch the plane from Milan in time on Sunday, after starring for Internazionale in the game at Vicenza, but has had to give in to a back injury.

"Hopefully, he might feel better tomorrow, if not, we will have to see him another time,' said Terry Venables, the England coach. Ince is due back in Italy tomorrow to start preparing for next Sunday's big Serie A match with Parma.

With only 18 outfield players permitted for the finals of the European Championship – a number Venables considers insufficient for possibly six games - it seems unlikely that the Liverpool pair's deadly partnership of 17 goals in the last nine games will be transported just now to the international stage. But one of them might just make it to the finals with a late run. à la Roger Hunt, their Liverpool

predecessor, in 1966.
The inclusion of Fowler in the senior squad is not before time. though he did gain some valuable work experience when he and three other members of the England Under-21 squad -Jamie Redknapp, Nick Barmy and Sol Campbell - were called



Curling lesson: Robbie Fowler looks on as Paul Gasgoigne gets in some shooting practice at Bisham Abbey yesterday

had improved, for which he was indebted to the advice of Ian Rush - "I've learnt everything I know off him, from defending to scoring goals." Judging by the

United States 15 months ago.
The 20-year-old believed that since then his all-round game then his all-round game by instinctive. "If 1 get two chances in a game I know I will put away one of them," he said with the confidence of a man who has already dispatched 23 of them this season. Fowler certainly looked at

home in an international environment yesterday. "There are so many other Liverpool players here (the previously injured Redknapp among them] that it could be our Melwood training ground," he said. "I know now I've got the chance to really aim

be lying if I said I didn t have that ambition.'

Despite the late call-up, Venables insisted Fowler had always been in his mind, but warned: "The competition is very finely balanced up front and he's got to force out some pretty formi-

A young man's game it may be, but not when it comes to international management, according to Venables. He was not about to disagree with his No 2 Bryan Robson, who believed that the England job

him. "Tve always felt it was a job for an older man because you've got to have certain attitudes. Preferably about 86," he added with a cheeky chappie grin. There have been a few in-

cumbents who may not have felt that age going into the job, but

### Venables is due to vacate after

Rangers and Aberdeen are considering appealing against disciplinary decisions which could cost them important players for vital league and cup matches.

Aberdeen striker Billy Dodds and Rangers defender Alan McLaren were yesterday given retrospective red cards for their part in an incident at Ibrox last November. They received onematch bans and 12 points each on their disciplinary records.

Dodds faces another twomatch ban if Aberdeen decide against an appeal, while Mo-Laren would be one yellow card short of a further three-match suspension. McLaren, Dodds and Rangers' Paul Gascoigne and John Brown all escaped action by referee John Rowbotham on the day of a 1-1 draw

between the sides on 11 November, but Gascoigne and Brown later received one-match bans and 12 points on their records on the strength of a referee supervisor's report.

At that stage, the case against McLaren and Dodds was put on hold as they were then the subiect of a police investigation. which was later dropped. Dodds could miss tonight's

rearranged game against Kilmarnock unless Aberdeen lodge an earty appeal. He is also under threat of a two-match ban from 5 February for exceeding the points threshold.

McLaren would be banned for Saturday's Scottish Cup third-round tie against Highland League side Keith at Pittodrie.

take him within one booking of a further three-match ban - the main worry for Rangers as any booking from mid-February onwards would rule him out of the Old Firm game against

Celtic on 17 March. "We have to see if they de-cide to appeal," Tony Higgins, secretary of the Scottish Professional Footballers' Association, said. "I suppose both of them feel they played a lesser part in the whole circumstance. If they do appeal, the bans will be held in abeyance until the ap-peals channels are exhausted."

In a separate case, the SFA was forced to scrap the red card against the name of Raith's defender Mark Humphries. He was sent off on 6 January for hand-ball in a 1-1 draw with Kil-

convert from rugby league were English, the selectors would not

yet be permitted to consider

Jenkins. The Pontypridd stand-off has not played since break-

ing a collar-bone on 16

Time is running out for Neil

marnock, but it later emerged that his team-mate Shaun Den-The SFA will not take account

of television evidence until next season and both Dennis and Humphries escaped punishment after attending a meeting yes-terday with the referee involved. The referee said he thought

it was me at the time, but later after hearing the radio reports he realised with hindsight he may have made a mistake," Humphries said. "There was enough evidence for the red card against Humphries to be rescinded and the 12 points wiped from his record," the SFA confirmed.

The Clyde manager, Alex Smith, has escaped action after being reported by a referee after a match with East Fife.

Tony Jacklin peaked too soon.

When he won the Open Cham-

Open raises prizes

but cuts the cut

### Rioch launches **Highbury** clear-out

**GUY HODGSON** 

Bruce Rioch's inclination to leave well alone at Arsenal came to an end yesterday when he added six names to a transfer list that suddenly expanded to nine. The rumours that the Gunners are about to sign Gianluigi Lentini might have some substance after all.

The Arsenal manger reacted to a third defeat in four games in the Premiership - not to men-tion an FA Cup defeat at Sheffield United - with an "enough is enough" gesture. To the names of David Hillier. Steve Morrow and Mark Flatts can be added the bulk of the reserve team.

The most prominent additions to the list are Chris Kiwomya and Eddie McGoldrick. who cost Rioch's predecessor. George Graham, £1.5m and £1m respectively, but also included in the clear-out are goalkeeper Vince Bartram, defender Scott Marshall and forwards

Paul Read and Paul Shaw. Lentini cost Milan a world record £13m when he was transferred from Torino in the summer of 1992 but a serious car crash has caused him to struggle to get into the first team, giv-ing credence to reports that Rioch was about to sign him for a cut-price (if that is the right term) fee of around £6m.

Certainly, in Saturday's programme, Rioch suggested change was imminent, writing:
"We need new blood. I've nominated three players I'd like the club to sign." Yesterday's move would appear to be a step in that direction.

The turnover at Manchester City Road gained pace last night when the German international, Michael Frontzeck, arrived at Maine Road to discuss a £350,000 transfer from Borussia Mönchengladbach.

The two clubs have agreed the fee and it requires only the assent of 22-cap Frontzeck to per-sonal terms for the move to be completed. The left-back was recommended by City's German goalkeeper. Eike Immel, who played with him at Stuttgart.

An England international, David Batty, is also likely to be transferred in the near future, eaders, Newcastle. The abrasive Blackburn midfield player will have talks with his manager Ray Harford today, when it is un-derstood he will be told that the club is open to offers. The fee

is likely to be around £3m. Robbie Earle has failed in his appeal against his recent sending-off and he will miss Wimbledon's FA Cup fourth-round tie at Middlesbrough on Saturday. Wolves last night signed Jiri Novotny, a central defender who plays internationally for the Czech Republic, from Sparta Prague on a week's trial.

#### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD in association with

manner in which he has put



Multiple vermicide? (5.5) Smart chap in a bit of comical

10 Note extremes of asthma in had air (6) 11 Slowly move by streets with abnormal orientation? (8)
13 Aunt upset about established

order of things (6) 14 One new brother's bit of archaeology is beneath one (5.3) 17 Form characters thus (8) 19 Judge left, joking about vi-

21 Mocking transport on the French transport system? (8) 23 Irrational fear of father about where to cook is gripping one 25 Erratic writer heard by audience (4) 26 A number tuck in to swan

> Organise me a helper for a short time (9) Utter defeat of circle in boring routine (4)

Giving up produce that's popular and good (8) Picture one million years

conked by pal you've never met? (3-6) 27 Short dessert to sample 12 Provider of sweet and pop?

7 A way of looking at things not on the level? (6)

(5.5) 15 Perhaps Arab nation settled shore? (9) 16 After a month with traveller it appears shabby (8)18 His recovery leaves you at a loss? (7)

 Sought to persuade one to leave having got shot of ten-The Dog's mistreated in the

Colonel Blimp took action to eat jugged hare (3-4) Requisition left-wing per-French gatekeeper's cottage 24 Responsibility attached to su-

perpower? (4) on's source of venison (10). Win a Weekend Break or a case of Bombardier Premium Bitter CALL 0891 311 017

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### His 12-point punishment would RFU pass the buck to France

**Rugby Union** STEVE BALE

England, or rather the Rugby Football Union, yesterday took up with their French counterparts the stamp by Richard Dourthe which was shown by

television to have opened up Ben Clarke's head in last Saturday's match in Paris. The No 8 himself seems to be a reluctant party to the RFU's action. Having been in one or two scrapes himself, and even been the first Englishman

to receive a yellow card in an preciates that complaints can be reciprocated. Hence Dourthe has not been cited, as it was the RFU's right to do, and is instead the subject of a letter to the French feder-

ation (FFR) as opposed to a

complaint. Yet André Herrero,

France's chairman of selectors,

confirmed yesterday that the 21-

year-old centre might be sus-

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pended for a game or two once Herrero had viewed a recording of the first-half incident.

Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary, said yesterday: "In consultation with Ben Clarke, we will not be citing Dourthe or taking the matter further. In not pursuing the incident beyond this letter, we are leaving it to the judgement and good sense of the FFR, who will be informed of what Rugby Special highlighted.

"Ben is still in France and I spoke to him before sending the letter. He is happy with our action. He did not see who did it and has no impression of how deliberate the injury was, but he said that he did feel it."

While the defeated English ponder their team for the match against Wales on Saturday week, Wales are poised to reintroduce Jonathan Davies to the international scene by including him in a squad of 32 for the Five Nations to be named today. If the recent re-@Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC. I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London

Scott Murray, who were on the bench in Ireland last Saturday, on contract. The SRU also announced that Jim Telfer, its director of rugby, would man-

> London will be the venue on Friday for a meeting of Europe's leading clubs to esrights and retaining the money.

Zealand.

tablish a Professional European Clubs' Association. The Association wants to run next season's European Cup, including negotiating the TV

age the summer tour to New

December, and his chances of making the squad are slim. "I have got a big heart but I don't want to play if I'm not right," Jenkins said.

pionship at Royal Lytham in 1969, he won £4,250. The player who lifts the silver claret jug on the Lancashire links in July The Scottish Rugby Union will receive £200,000, an inyesterday added two more to its crease of £75,000 on last year. portfolio of paid players by placing the scrum-half Der-Total prize-money is going up by £150,000 to £1.4m, but it is rick Patterson and the lock only the players in the top seven who will benefit. The winner's

TIM GLOVER

cheque represents a rise of 60 per cent and the runner-up gets £150,000, an increase of £50,000. "We have substantially increased the prize-money at the top in order to truly reflect the status of the Open in relation to

the other major championships." Michael Bonallack, secretary of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, said. The first prize for the Open

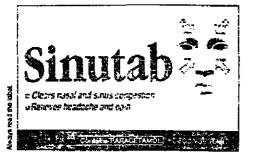
is still less than the amounts on offer for the Masters, US Open nd retaining the money. and US PGA. Last season, Alan Watkins, page 23 Ben Crenshaw won \$360,000

(£243,000) at Augusta and Corey Pavin collected \$350,000 for becoming the US Open champion. In a table of golf's richest purses, the Open also lags behind

several non-European events

that do not carry major status. The Open, which makes a profit of £3m-4m a year, has abandoned the 10-shot rule by which anyone within 10 strokes of the leader after 36 holes qual-ified for the final two rounds. In 1991 at Royal Birkdale, the rule allowed 113 players to make the cut and last year at St Andrews there were 103 survivors. Cumbersome fields are not only inconvenient for the Open, but they cost the R and A dear in having to pay more prize money to more people. In July, only the leading 70-plus ties will survive.

All members of the European and US Ryder Cup teams from last September are exempt from qualifying and the Britain and Ireland Walker Cup side will not have to go through regional qualifying. The deadline for buying discounted season tickets for the Open is 31 January.



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